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## A NEW CHALLENGE

Freshman competes at pentathlon for first time, page 23

OPINION NEW PROGRAM LACKS REAL DIVERSITY, PAGE 10

ACCENT STUDENTS REVERSE SEXUAL ROLES, PAGE 13

THIS I SEE REAL LIFE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, PAGE 28

THURSDAY  
MARCH 19, 2009

## THE ITHACAN

ITHACA, N.Y.  
VOLUME 76, ISSUE 22

Ithaca Baha'i Kalyari Ramanujan holds a rose Sunday at a prayer service in Dewitt Park.  
EVAN FALK/THE ITHACAN

BY ELIZABETH SILE  
NEWS EDITOR

Only the rustling of papers, the shrill of sirens and rhythmic strum of church bells could be heard over quiet mumblings of prayers in Dewitt Park.

*"And truly thy Lord will repay everyone according to their works; For he is well aware of what they do,"* a woman recited in English.

*"The troubles of heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses,"* another delivered in Arabic, carefully weighing each sound.

It was a small, muted event — more than 30 gathered Sunday to protest religious intolerance. Prayers from the Quran, Bible, Buddha, Bhagavad Gita and

the Tehillim weaved in between messages and traditional teachings of their own faith — Baha'i, a 165 year old religion that emphasizes the unity of mankind.

Baha'is believe each of the world's major religions is part of a single process by which God reveals his will to humanity through divine messengers such as Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Christ and Muhammad. They believe Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i faith, is the most recent of these prophets.

Ithaca Baha'i Shamsi Brinn, who coordinated the prayer, said prophets come with a message that is right for the world climate at the time.

"[Baha'u'llah] has come to usher in the age that all religions and all peoples of the world have been look-

ing forward to, of a global peace, a true global peace," she said.

The arrests and detentions of seven Baha'i leaders in March and May 2008 in Iran prompted members of the Ithaca Baha'i community to gather Sunday. A photograph of these seven Baha'is rested on a tiny shrine, looking out toward the followers as they prayed for equality and peace.

On Feb. 11, deputy Tehran prosecutor Hassan Haddad announced to the press that the "illegal Baha'i group" would be tried on charges that included "espionage for Israel [where the Baha'i head-

See RELIGION, page 4

Study reports  
area sewers as  
source of TCE

BY DAVID DURRETT  
SENIOR WRITER

Emerson Power Transmission and the Department of Environmental Conservation are reevaluating area cleanup methods after a report last year found that sewers were the main source of trichloroethylene contamination. Though TCE has been an issue in Ithaca for more than 20 years, it was previously thought that Emerson's reservoir was the main source.

TCE, which can cause cancer, liver and kidney ailments and nervous disorders over time, was first identified on South Hill in 1987, after Emerson reported finding TCE in its personal reservoir. The DEC required Emerson to enter a consent order to address the TCE contamination, and in 1994, Emerson installed a pump filtration system to treat contaminated groundwater. The TCE contaminating soil was believed to have come from the reservoir, but historical and geological information found for the fall report revealed contamination came from sewers.

Gregg Townsend, the regional hazardous waste remediation engineer of the New York State DEC, said most of the contamination affecting South Hill was originally dumped into the sewer systems, rather than into the plant's reservoir.

"In addition to cleaning up the groundwater associate firewater reservoir, we're going to be asking Emerson to address the soil vapor migrating through the sewers," he said.

The DEC held a meeting March 5 to make an amendment to its 1994 Record of Decision that would upgrade the system that extracts toxins from the soil. The cleanup for the land Emerson owns will cost approximately \$3.5 million. The DEC will formulate a plan to deal with on-site contamination during the next few months and will open the plan to public comment as early as June.

Diane Carlton, regional public affairs and education officer for the DEC, said the work to remove contaminants, which potentially include pumping chemicals to counteract TCE or removing contaminated soil, would have a minimal impact on residents, as much of the work has already been done.

"You're not going to see a lot of trucks or equipment coming in or out of the area," she said. "There won't be an impact for [residents]."

Ken Deschere, who has lived on South Hill since 1981 and maintains the Web site [www.ithaca-ship.org](http://www.ithaca-ship.org) to organize relevant documents on TCE contamination, said homeowners in the area are concerned

ONLINE

Watch South Hill residents' responses at [theithacan.org/go/09tce](http://theithacan.org/go/09tce).

## Teach For America applications at record high

BY BECCA BURNS  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With job opportunities for college seniors looking bleak, there has been a huge surge in students applying to Teach For America, a national corps of college graduates who commit two years to teaching in low-income public schools.

Though these college seniors know they will only make \$27,000 to \$47,000 per year, more than 35,000 college seniors applied for the program this year, according to Trevor Stutz, national communications manager of TFA. This is a 42 percent increase from last year and is a new record for the organization.

"This record number of applicants is especially encouraging because it occurs at a time when a growing body of rigorous research demonstrates that TFA corps members are highly effective classroom teachers," he said.

Stutz said more than 6 percent of graduating seniors from Ithaca College and 11 percent from Cornell University applied for next year's teaching corps.

"While the economy played a role in reducing competition for top applicants, we believe this year's increase in Ithaca and across the country can

also be attributed to a growing interest among young people to engage in public service [and to] the reputation we have developed among young people for achieving results with underserved students," he said.

Senior Steven Lowery was accepted to the program this year and will be teaching upper elementary education in Connecticut this fall. Before this year, he said he had no intentions of joining the program, but once he learned about its opportunities from Anastasia Baichorova, the college's recruiter, he decided he wanted to join.

"She shared these amazing experiences of classroom settings and potential growth as not only a person in general, but a great leader when joining the program," he said. "It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to just go off and try doing something great for the U.S. and actually use all of the liberal arts skills I've obtained here at IC."

Lindsey Dickerson '06 worked for two years as a campus campaign coordinator for TFA, recruiting and promoting on the college's campus. She now works in Brownsville, Texas, as a second-grade teacher. She said her experience there has largely been colored by issues surrounding immigration, Mexican-American culture



Senior Steven Lowery reads materials from Teach For America on Tuesday in his Circle Apartment. Lowery will join the organization after graduation.

LAUREN DECICCA/THE ITHACAN

and social and human rights issues because of the town's location on the border.

"Everyone sees the statistics hung on fliers around campus, but educational inequity is very, very real," she said. "Even by the second grade, I have students who are already two years behind academically and who are drasti-

cally affected by issues of poverty."

TFA aims to eliminate this inequality and to improve student achievement. Currently, about 6,200 TFA corps members teach in 29 urban and rural areas across the country.

Dickerson said she thinks the

See CORPS, page 4

See TOXINS, page 4



{THIS} WEEK  
19 THURSDAY

**“A Fig by Any Other Name Would Smell Just as Sweet: A Study of Phylogeny, Biogeography and Floral Volatile Mimicry in Figs and Close Relatives,”** presented by Wendy Clement '02, at 4 p.m. in Center for Natural Sciences Room 115

**Silent Auction,** sponsored by IC SafeWater, from 7 to 9 p.m. in IC Square

20 FRIDAY

**“From IC to L.A.: Finding Your Perfect Medium,”** a presentation by Larry Teng '99, at 4 p.m. in Park Auditorium

**Shabbat Services** at 6 p.m. in Muller Chapel

**Shabbat Dinner** at 7:15 p.m. in Terrace Dining Hall

22 SUNDAY

**Nondenominational Protestant Service** at 11 a.m. in Muller Chapel

**Catholic Community Mass** at 1 and 9 p.m. in Muller Chapel

23 MONDAY

**Speaker: Donna Brazile,** sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, as part of the “In My Own Words” series at 6:30 p.m. in Emerson Suites

**The “Real Food” Event: Good for People, Good for the Planet,** from 7 to 8:30 p.m., in Klingenstein Lounge

24 TUESDAY

**IC Sustainability Group Meeting** from 12:10 to 1 p.m. at the Park Center for Business

**Speaker: Divine Bradley,** sponsored by Student to Student, from 1 to 8 p.m. in the Taughanock Falls Meeting Room

**IC Journal Release and Reception,** sponsored by Ithaca College Journal of Race, Culture, Gender and Ethnicity, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Klingenstein Lounge

ADD YOUR EVENT

**Drop events for “This Week”** in the marked box in *The Ithacan* office or e-mail Assistant News Editor Becca Burns at [rburns1@ithaca.edu](mailto:rburns1@ithaca.edu) by 5 p.m. Monday.

CORRECTIONS

It is *The Ithacan’s* policy to correct all errors of fact. Please contact Assistant News Editor Jackie Palochko at 274-3207.

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DESIGN

Alexis McNutt (pages 1, 13, 14 and 27), Chris Carlson and Jane Chen (page 23), Michelle Barrie (page 28).

Nation&World

Leader denounces arrest warrant

The Sudanese president rallied Arab supporters in Darfur yesterday by saying no war crimes court or the U.N. Security Council can touch even “an eyelash” on him despite an international order for his arrest.

Speaking to thousands at a rally in the southern Darfur town of Nyala, Omar al-Bashir denounced the West for allegedly seeking to “create chaos in Sudan” and trying to split Darfur from the rest of the country.

This was al-Bashir’s second visit to Darfur since the International Criminal Court issued a warrant for his arrest on March 4 on charges of war crimes in the western Sudanese region.

The Netherlands-based court accused al-Bashir of orchestrating atrocities against civilians in Darfur, where his Arab-led government has been battling ethnic African rebels since 2003. Up to 300,000 people have been killed, and 2.7 million have been driven from their homes.

Many fear the warrant could unleash violence against civilians and the joint U.N.-African Union mission in Darfur.

The Sudanese government responded to the warrant by expelling 13 large foreign aid agencies, most of them operating in Darfur, as al-Bashir accused them of spying for the ICC. The U.N. estimates that the expulsion threatens more than 3 million people with the loss of food aid, health care or suitable drinking water.

Court endorses switch of president

Madagascar’s highest court yesterday endorsed the army’s move to replace the president with his rival, but the African Union was considering whether it constituted a coup.

Supporters of opposition leader Andry Rajoelina had approached the constitutional court to affirm the army’s action.

In a radio address yesterday, the court declared that Rajoelina “is serving as president of the republic” — even though at 34, Rajoelina is six years too young to do so under the country’s constitution.

The court gave no reasons, saying only that Marc Ravalomanana had vacated his presidential post and left the military to make the decision on how it would be filled.

Western world warned of meddling

President Hamid Karzai warned the international community yesterday against meddling in Afghanistan’s politics as it prepares for a presidential election later this year, saying the country is not “a puppet state.”

Karzai faces an election in August, at a time when the country is embroiled in a vicious



Sitting, waiting, wishing

Laid-off workers from the Longbin Distillery stage a sit-in yesterday at the China Resources Holdings Company in Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang. The workers are demanding insurance and retirement benefits they say were lost when their distillery became a subsidiary in 2007.

ANDY WONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban-led insurgency and the performance of his government has been criticized by President Obama’s administration and other Western capitals as inefficient and corrupt.

NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said the alliance needs four more battalions in addition to nearly 60,000 troops already in the country to provide security for the August election. A battalion normally includes 750 to 850 soldiers.

Speaking alongside de Hoop Scheffer, Karzai told a news conference in Kabul that his government’s foreign partners should respect and honor his country’s independence.

Karzai accused several nations of proposing to weaken the central government.

**US leaders may tackle drug conflict**

The Obama administration may shift tens of millions of dollars for enforcing workplace immigration laws to fighting Mexican drug cartels.

An official familiar with the plan said the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency is considering asking Congress for approval to take more

than \$30 million from a program to investigate employers complicit in hiring illegal immigrants.

If Congress agreed, the money would be used to fight cartel-related violence.

The person spoke yesterday on condition of anonymity because the request has not yet been made to Congress.

Madoff’s accountant faces charges

The Bernard Madoff case expanded yesterday as prosecutors brought charges against David Friehling, Madoff’s longtime accountant.

Friehling ran an accounting office in a nondescript suburban building north of New York City and quickly drew scrutiny after the Madoff scandal broke. He had served as Madoff’s auditor for several years. He faces up to 105 years in prison if convicted of the fraud charges.

Madoff pleaded guilty last week to what could be the largest fraud in history as prosecutors said they will continue to go after other people who may have been involved.

SOURCE: Associated Press

College&City

Breakout sessions to focus on sexuality and sport

The Sport, Sexuality and Culture Conference will continue today, starting at 9 a.m., and end tomorrow at 7 p.m. in Emerson Suites, Phillips Hall and Textor Hall.

The conference focuses on homophobia in sport; LGBT athlete and employee rights; and intersections between race, gender, sexuality and sport.

Keynote speaker John Amaechi, a former NBA player, will be discussing his thoughts on LGBT athletes, coaches and sport industry professionals today from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Emerson Suites.

Gerontology professor to speak at Ithaca College

Professor William Haley will be giving his presentation “The Long-Term Benefits of Counseling and Education for Family Caregivers” today at 7 p.m. in Textor 102.

Haley, who is a professor at the School of Aging Studies at the University of South Florida, is serving as the spring 2009 visiting scholar at the Ithaca College Gerontology Institute.

He is the director of the Education and Information Core of the Florida Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and focuses on the stress experienced by family caregivers for people with Alzheimer’s, cancer and terminal illness.

The Gerontology Institute, a program in the college’s Division of Interdisciplinary and International Studies, promotes and supports research, curriculum development, community education and community service activities in gerontology.

Public urged to stay out of city’s gorges and trails

The Ithaca Fire Department is warning residents and tourists to stay off the city’s recreational trails that still remain closed from this winter.

Though the trails may appear cleared of snow and ice, there are still patches of frozen ice along the shaded parts of the trail.

Water levels in the creeks are also running high after recent rain. With water temperatures still in the 40-degree range in local creeks, a person can get hypothermia with just a few minutes of exposure to this water.

The Fire Department urges the public to stay out of the gorges and off the trails until warmer weather arrives and the trails are reopened.

Offices at Ithaca College to move to Williams Center

Ithaca College’s Office of Student Financial Services will be moving to the new Peggy Ryan Williams Center tomorrow through Saturday.

The office will be closed beginning at 3 p.m. today and will reopen at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday.

The Office of the Registrar, Division of Graduate and Professional Studies, the Office of Human Resources and some units of Information Technology Services are also moving to their new locations in the Williams Center this week.

Cornell Plantations in need of volunteers to save trees

Workshops to train volunteers to protect vital trees have been scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Monday at Cornell Plantations’ Lewis Education Center at 1 Plantations Road.

Volunteers will learn how to identify and report new infestations of the hemlock woolly adelgid, a small insect that has destroyed populations of the important tree across

the eastern U.S. and that could seriously alter ecosystems.

The workshops were organized by Cornell Plantations, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Cornell Department of Natural Resources, the Finger Lakes Land Trust and the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society.

To register for the training workshops, or for more information on the hemlock woolly adelgid, visit [www.plantations.cornell.edu](http://www.plantations.cornell.edu).

Seminar series to continue lectures on green buildings

Tompkins County Cooperative Extension and the Ithaca Green Building Alliance are presenting their fifth annual Green Building Seminar Series from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday and March 31 at the First Unitarian Church of Ithaca.

On Tuesday there will be a lecture titled “Solar and Wind,” in which a speaker will give a presentation on how to size systems and some of the financial incentives available.

On March 31, there will be the presentation “Green Heating Options,” which will focus on the basics of point-source heating, geothermal and solar thermal systems, and masonry heaters and stoves.

There is a fee of \$5 per seminar or \$20 for the series.



# Hotel plans continue despite air rights issues

**BY REBECCA WEBSTER**  
STAFF WRITER

The planning process for the luxury hotel project on The Commons, interrupted by confusion over who owns the section of air above it, may quickly get back on track pending the approval of a boundary line agreement.

Six years ago developer Jeffrey Rimland purchased a section of land on The Ithaca Commons, formerly the site of the Ithaca Hotel and now a parking lot. He proposed building a luxury hotel in its place in 2008. Rimland has been working with an architect to come up with a plan for the hotel.

The hotel will be a high-end, boutique hotel, housing a restaurant, meeting spaces and about 130 rooms. The initial proposal only included 102 rooms. Rimland said he added rooms to make sure the hotel could function financially. With the added rooms, however, Rimland now needs to build a portion of the hotel over the Green Street Garage, which stands next to the proposed hotel.

The question now halting construction is who owns the rights to that space.

The garage sits on top of another building, one that JoAnn Cornish, planning director for the city, said is owned by Rimland. The city owns the garage. As a result, the city is having a difficult time deciding whether to allow the hotel to build over the garage until it determines who has the air rights.

“We are not sure if we are going to be able to answer that because it has changed ownership so many times,” she said.

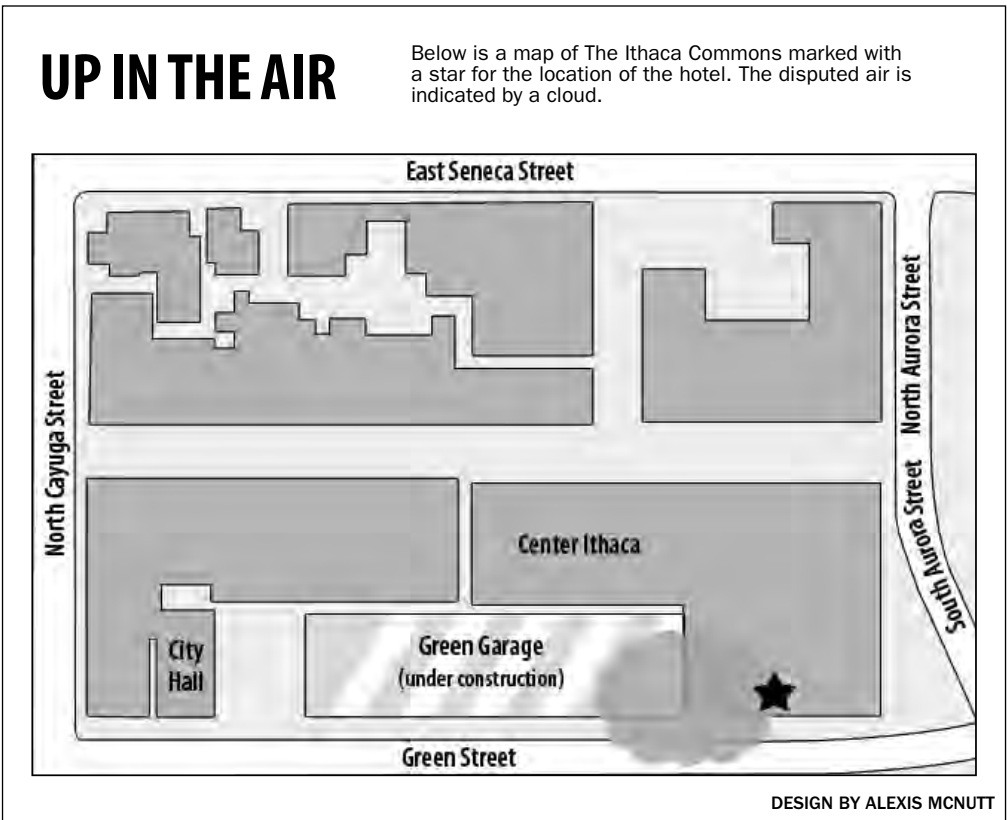
City Common Council member Daniel Cogan said the Common Council voted at a meeting March 5 to resolve the issue. City officials are now going through countless ownership documents on the building to try to determine who has the air rights.

“I don’t anticipate that we are going to have to spend a whole lot of time on it,” he said.

Many people in Ithaca, including Cogan, said the hotel will bring more pedestrian traffic and benefits to The Commons.

“Having that kind of anchor at the end of The Commons I think would really help increase the density and vibrancy that we are trying to achieve downtown,” Cogan said.

Kristen Lewis, operations manager of the Ithaca



Downtown Partnership, said there is always a need for hotel rooms, because colleges surround the city. The hotel will not only help that but also bring more people downtown, she said.

“We are in love with having more visitors down here, [so they can] stay right in our pedestrian walking area so they can take advantage of our restaurants and shopping,” she said.

Lewis said because there is support for the hotel, there will likely be no problems settling the issue and continuing the approval process for the space.

“It is an unusual issue, but I think we all agree ... that it is probably going to work itself out,” she said.

Cornish said the city attorney has drafted a boundary line agreement, meaning Rimland could build the overhang pending city approval.

“We [came up] with the boundary line agreement, which seems to be the quickest ... simplest way,” she said.

The boundary line agreement needs to get ap-

proval by the Common Council before the air rights issue can be settled, which will likely happen at the body’s April meeting. Cogan said members of the Common Council are eager to settle this issue and keep the project moving forward.

“There is a strong desire to get this done as quickly as possible,” he said.

Cornish said the project is otherwise on track and there aren’t any other problems.

“Everyone understands the value of a project like this to the city, especially right now with the economy being the way it is,” she said. “The Common Council is pretty willing to get this done and make it as easy as possible.”

If everything continues to go well, Cornish said the hotel would start construction this fall, and Rimland is anxious to get started.

Cogan said the air rights issue is all a part of the process.

“It’s all in the works, and this is just one more piece of [the project] to keep it moving,” he said.

# SGA considers free paper distribution

**BY LEAH TEDESCO**  
STAFF WRITER

Students could start to pick up newspapers across the Ithaca College campus for free if next year’s Student Government Association implements a new national program.

The Collegiate Readership Program would be similar to one at Cornell University, in which USA Today and The New York Times are readily available for free to students Monday through Friday.

Liz Rittling, senior account manager for the program and USA Today, said the program’s mission is to promote civic engagement, global awareness and media literacy on college campuses by making papers available to students in community spaces.

The college would only have to pay for used newspapers. The program would provide stands and display signs. Papers left in the stand are free to the college.

Senior Edward Lemonier, vice president of communications for SGA, said the college already provides enough informational resources to its students and adding this would be unnecessary.

“Implementing a new program such as this completely contradicts the college’s efforts in attempting to lower costs,” Lemonier said.

SGA president and senior Cornell Woodson said the program would not exceed \$3,000 annually and could happen if SGA put on smaller events and used the leftover money for the program.

Natalie King, a freshman senator for SGA, said many professors require their students to read newspapers like The New York Times each day.

She said with tuition rising, it is hard to pay for additional subscriptions on top of books.

“The program is fantastic, and I would love to see it happen,” she said. “Even though newspapers may be dying out, it’s still necessary to go through the process of getting your news in that form.”

King said implementing such a program would provide a service to the student body.

“It goes back to the basic roots of SGA, which is to serve and support the student body, especially in terms of academics,” she said.

Currently, students can subscribe to the Monday through Friday editions of The New York Times for \$29.70 per semester at Mac’s General Store.

Woodson said the Collegiate Readership Program would expand media literacy at the college.

“I feel that a lot more students would read the paper if they could get it for free,” Woodson said.

# Students take sustainable competition to the Web

**BY AMANDA FOX**  
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College is joining schools like Yale, Harvard, Stanford and Georgia Tech in the America’s Greenest Campus contest, an effort to make campuses across the country more sustainable.

The contest uses a platform similar to a social networking site, said Marian Brown, special assistant to the provost. The contest tracks how many participants and members use the Climate Culture site in order to determine what place the college is in.

The contest is based on the number of members who use the site, so the school with the most members takes the lead. Additionally, Climate Culture monitors how much participants reduce their energy use. Progress is monitored by the Web site through a points system, and schools can win based on how many participants they have, as well as the amount of carbon reductions per participant.

The contest puts the college head-to-head with other campuses until it ends in October.

To date, the college has only sent out an Intercom announcement, but groups like the Residence Hall Association and the Resource and Environment Management Program plan to promote it for the rest of the semester.

The Climate Culture site is also

an educational tool, with tips and information about what raises carbon impact and increases wasteful energy. On Climate Culture, a student’s avatar guides a participant through different ways to reduce one’s carbon footprint specific to a student’s lifestyle.

Users enter data to assess their current climate impacts and earn points by adopting different reduction strategies and committing to different life choices.

Brown said the contest advocates reducing carbon impact by using simple actions around campus and in everyday life. These things can include making sure all lights are off when possible, taking shorter or fewer showers, giving up disposable coffee cups and using double-sided printing.

Brown said if the college can reduce its carbon impact, it would save money, which can then translate into the money being spent in other places, such as academic programming.

“So many things we have are fixed costs,” she said. “If we can reduce those fixed costs, then it opens up those dollars for other, and in some respects better, purposes.”

Sophomore Kristyne Fetsic said she supports efforts to be more sustainable in hopes that the money saved can then be allocated elsewhere.

“I wish our money could go towards better things,” she said. “I am all



**Marian Brown, special assistant to the provost, surfs the Climate Culture Web site Tuesday afternoon in her office in the Administrative Annex.**  
ALEXIS MCNUTT/THE ITHACAN

for sustainability and in my opinion, our money could be used for other things [than utility costs].”

Mark Darling, a faculty supervisor of REMP, said becoming more sustainable and reducing carbon impact will help the economy.

“Everything that is good for the environment is going to be good economically in the long run,” he said.

Darling said jobs may be created to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. He said technological jobs, such as designing products like solar panels and redesigning products like vehicles to be sustainable, could also be created.

Brown said the college has demonstrated it is possible to be more sustainable through “Hall Wars,” a competition between several residence halls organized by RHA last year.

The college is also taking steps beyond America’s Greenest Campus by influencing offices on campus to take on a more sustainable role through the competition and creating other programs, as the Office of Residential Life has done. Brown said she hopes RHA will become more involved with the contest.

Brown said the college will benefit more from the contest if more organizations get involved.

She said it does not take much effort to be more sustainable, and with the help of Climate Culture, she hopes more people will find it easier.

“A lot of times it’s not related to being sacrificial, [it’s related to] energy ... being wasted, which also wastes money,” she said. “We would be saving money big-time if we changed our everyday habits.”

# Iranian officials arrest Baha'i leaders

## RELIGION

FROM PAGE 1

quarters is located], insulting religious sanctities and propaganda against the Islamic republic.”

If convicted, the seven will be sentenced to death, but so far none of the detainees have been tried.

Baha'i communities in Iran and other areas of the Middle East have been persecuted since the religion's founding in Iran in 1844, said Shastin Purushotma, human rights officer for the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States.

“The common theme is it's for being a Baha'i basically,” he said.

Purushotma said today the religion has more than 5 million followers in more than 200 countries, making the faith one of the world's most widespread religions.

With more than 50 members, the Ithaca Baha'i community is small in comparison to others around the state, which have community and worship centers. The Ithaca Baha'is meet largely in homes and public places but still have a strong sense of community.

Ithaca resident Mirion Eaton said she became a Baha'i follower one month ago, after exploring the religion in Ithaca, because it proposes peace around the world.

“It's not a religion where you have to show how religious you are,” she said. “You have to show how much love you have, and that is the best thing.”

The succession of the prophets, according to the Baha'i faith, has been challenging for followers of other faiths to believe, especially in the Islamic republic of Iran where some label Baha'is as heretics and infidels.

The Al Ahzab chapter of the Quran explicitly states, “Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of God and the Seal of the prophets.”

Purushotma said many fundamentalist Muslims interpret this to mean Muhammad was the last of prophets, something Purushotma said is what makes the religion so controversial in Muslim countries.

“The Baha'i interpretation of that is quite simple,” he said, “It is that Muhammad sealed one stage of history and now a new stage of history has begun. The Baha'i teachings are for now.”

Baha'i leadership is organized on



From left, Ithaca resident Deb Thompson looks at a photograph of seven Baha'i leaders arrested in Iran on charges of espionage and propaganda while Kalle Brinnell places a flower in a vase Sunday at Dewitt Park.  
EVAN FALK/THE ITHACAN

local, national and international levels through elected bodies called spiritual assemblies comprised of nine Baha'is. After the Iranian Revolution in 1979, members of three separate spiritual assemblies in Iran were executed.

The seven Baha'is arrested in Iran are part a larger movement of persecution that began with the religion's inception, Purushotma said.

According to the International Federation for Human Rights, it is estimated that more than 200 Baha'is were executed between 1978 and 1998 solely on the basis of their religion.

Kathleen Holmlund, media relations officer for the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States, said persecution of Baha'is is not limited to Iran. In Egypt, Baha'is were unable to obtain identification cards and passports that required citizens to choose a religion between Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

On Monday, a court in Egypt lifted these grounds that prevented Baha'is from obtaining identification.

Holmlund said Baha'is in Iran and other areas do not seek any more than freedom of religion.

“The Baha'is are not asking to be recognized,” she said. “They're just asking to live like any other citizen ...

and to be accorded their basic rights.”

Ithaca resident and Baha'i Marjorie Tracy said she remembers press coverage of the Iranian Shah ordering persecution of Baha'i, when she became a Baha'i more than 40 years ago.

“The Shah ... practiced raiding places and taking people from their homes just because they were Baha'i,” she said, fidgeting with the traditional Baha'i ring she bought to celebrate her 40 years of faith.

Iran's Attorney General, Ayatollah Qorban-Ali Dorri-Najafabadi, published a letter to the country's Minister of Intelligence, Muhseni-Azhehi, on an Iranian news Web site Feb. 19. Dorri-Najafabadi said religious minorities are free to legally function as long as they do not violate principles of independence, liberty and unity, Islamic provisions, and the laws of the republic. According to Dorri-Najafabadi, the Baha'is violate these principles and therefore must be monitored.

“[The Baha'i faith is] not among the political parties or legal associations that are licensed for activity, nor are they listed among the divine religions, nor do they meet the definition of religious minorities,” he said in the letter.

In a Feb. 23 interview on the Iranian Press TV, Dorri-Najafabadi said

the Iranian government has provided Baha'is with “all the facilities offered to other Iranian citizens,” and has “always [shown them] great kindness.”

The coming trial of the seven Iranian Baha'is not only drew protest from Ithaca residents, but from Congress.

Purushotma said a resolution in the House of Representatives would condemn the Iranian government for its “state-sponsored persecution of its “Baha'i minority,” if passed. The Senate bill, Purushotma said, was similar.

“They call up the president and the secretary of state to speak out and condemn the Iranian government for what it's done,” he said.

Both resolutions will be voted on in the coming weeks.

Baha'is in Ithaca will continue to pray for the Iranian Baha'is, while Baha'is in the U.S. and abroad continue to put international pressure on Iran to release the detainees.

Purushotma said he thinks the most effective way to achieve religious tolerance is through such pressure.

“If someone is intending to commit a crime and they're trying to do it in the darkness, then someone shines a big spotlight, they still might try and commit the crime,” he said. “But they might have second thoughts.”

# Alumni find value in service

## CORPS

FROM PAGE 1

record number of applicants may be because of the recession as well as an increased awareness of the subject.

“Coupled with the economy, applications are rising in large part due to students really understanding the urgency of this issue,” Dickerson said. “Additionally, TFA provides incredible post-commitment opportunities that definitely appeal to recent grads.”

Leah Catlin '06, though, said she does not think this increase has anything to do with the economy. She finished TFA's two-year program last year and is now a kindergarten teacher at a school in Atlanta.

“While I do think there is a sense of job security with being a teacher, I do not personally think that people would join TFA just because of the shaky economy,” Catlin said. “A sense of security may be a perk, but I think that more people are drawn to the cause.”

Though Catlin said she had a somewhat satisfying experience with TFA, she said she thought she could have been better prepared.

“While I appreciated their efforts in preparing me for the classroom, I did not feel prepared at all on my first day,” she said. “I felt that their professional development sessions throughout the year could have been better.”

Dickerson said along with helping these underprivileged children learn, there are many benefits to TFA corps members. She said an added bonus is that they can receive their teaching certifications after one or two years in the program.

“It's just a wonderful organization to be a part of,” she said. “You really do get the feeling that you are not only a part of an enormous social justice movement, but very well-connected with some of our nation's best young leaders.”

Though only about 20 percent of applicants will be accepted, students like Sherry Shen, current campus campaign coordinator, said they feel it is worthwhile to apply.

She said she wants to help these children living in poverty because she does not think it is fair that there is a difference between lower and higher income area classrooms.

“The root of the problem lies in how people become part of a vicious cycle and that school systems do not have enough teachers and education advocates or leaders to lead these schools and transform the mind-set of so many children in these school districts,” she said.

The college graduates who get accepted into the program will undergo five weeks of summer training and will then be put into these difficult classrooms of poor and immigrant children right away. Catlin said this has been one of her most challenging and rewarding experiences.

“Once you walk into your classroom and meet your students, you realize just how willing you are to work your hardest, to bend over backwards, to stretch yourself to your furthest limits to help these children realize their potential,” Catlin said.

# Changes made for cleanup

## TOXINS

FROM PAGE 1

with property values.

“There's enough of a concern about [TCE] in Ithaca that it has scared some people who might have otherwise bought houses in our neighborhood away,” he said,

As part of the cleanup, Emerson is both providing homeowners with mitigation devices that can pump TCE toxins out of homes and is paying for the cost of installing the systems. Carlton said only homeowners with TCE contamination above 5 micrograms per cubic centimeter, the minimum amount of contamination in New York state, qualify. The minimum for Emerson to install the unit is 0.8 micrograms per cubic centimeter.

“If you register TCE in your home, it doesn't automatically mean you need to get a remediation system,” she said.

Meg Jamieson, professor of cinema, photography and media arts at the college, said her home qualified for a free remediation system, which pumps out contaminants, but because it was installed directly on her house, it shook so badly that it broke two windows. She said contamination has resulted in decreasing property values for homes, even while values for nearby homes

increase, despite being told TCE has not affected property values.

Deschere said he was concerned about the remediation systems blowing toxins out of the basements and into the air, which would potentially make outside areas more contaminated.

Deschere said Emerson and the DEC's approach to cleanup was “maddeningly slow,” as it took them until 2004 to realize that their initial approach to the cleanup was ineffective. He said it would take several more years to clean up the TCE.

“I'm glad that Emerson is still paying to help clean things up,” Deschere said. “I'm glad the DEC is still studying it. But, I'm mad it's taking so long to identify the problems.”

Carlton said previous attempts to remove TCE had not been as effective as newer techniques and said while only 417 pounds of contaminants have been removed during the past 11 years, current technology can remove three pounds per day.

Jamieson said the contamination eroded the sense of security she had from her home and made her wonder if people can safely live on South Hill.

“It's ... a perpetual, ongoing hassle, but beyond that, there's also the sense of your house not being the haven that you had hoped it would be,” she said.

## TOXIC TERMS

Below are several things to know related to TCE.

**Trichloroethylene (TCE):** a colorless or blue organic liquid with a chloroformlike odor. TCE is most often used as a solvent to remove grease from fabricated metal parts. It is not thought to occur naturally but has been found in groundwater from manufacturing and chemical disposal. Short-term and long-term inhalation exposure to TCE can affect the human central nervous system with symptoms such as dizziness, headaches, confusion, euphoria, facial numbness and weakness.

**Solvent:** a liquid or gas that dissolves a solid, liquid or gaseous solute, the minor component in a solution. The most common solvent is water, but TCE is also a solvent for removing grease from metal parts.

**Groundwater:** rainwater or water from lakes or streams that soak into the soil and bedrock and are stored underground in the tiny spaces between rocks and particles of soil. Groundwater pollution occurs when hazardous substances come into contact and dissolve in the groundwater.

**Soil vapor:** a method that reduces volatile agents in petroleum products, which have adsorbed into soil. Also known as “soil venting” or “vacuum extraction.”

SOURCE: THE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

# Tompkins County to receive stimulus funds for Medicaid

BY BRIANA PADILLA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As a part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, counties in New York state will receive a total of \$2.7 billion in Medicaid relief during the next 27 months through increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentages.

These funds should ease the financial burden that comes with providing Medicaid services, New York State Governor David A. Paterson said in a press release.

The FMAP money will help counties cover Medicaid costs without having to make cuts from other essential public services. It will also help prevent further increases in property taxes in the state.

Medicaid is a program funded by state and federal governments to provide health care to certain population groups such as pregnant women, small children, the disabled, the elderly and those receiving Social Security income. Families with annual incomes of \$29,498 or less are also eligible.

If a doctor or registered health care provider chooses to accept Medicaid, they assume responsibility of a Medicaid recipient's medical bills and are later reimbursed by the state for particular services such as primary care, inpatient care and laboratory fees.

Matt Anderson, spokesperson for the New York State Division of the Budget, said the program intends to help state and local governments get through difficult economic times.

"The FMAP money increases reimbursement for Medicaid and lowers the state costs [of Medicaid] which is good for us fiscally," he said.

Because the stimulus is intended to relieve financial burdens of the



Ethel Bennett checks in for an appointment with medical receptionist Theresa Toth yesterday at Ithaca Medical. The stimulus package will help cover the costs of Medicaid for local health care practitioners.

ALLISON USAVAGE/THE ITHACAN

state, the governor's office intends to spend responsibly, Anderson said.

Anderson said that, though the FMAP funds can be flexibly dispersed, conditional restrictions exist to ensure that the money will be used to benefit Medicaid recipients.

"We can't put [the stimulus] in a rainy day reserve, and we can't cut benefits to Medicaid recipients," he said.

The funds will be dispersed to each county's administration, and each county will decide how to allot them. Though the New York State Governor's Office is still in budget negotiations with the state legisla-

ture, Tompkins County is projected to receive nearly \$4 million during the next 27 months, based on Medicaid projections made in this year's executive budget. About \$775,700 will have been disbursed by the end of this fiscal year in June.

Where money will be disbursed within Tompkins County has yet to be determined, said Patricia Carey, commissioner of Tompkins County's Department of Social Services.

"It's the state that's really getting the money and then distributing it to mitigate the Medicaid expenses of each county," she said.

Robert Brown, office manager of the Ithaca Free Clinic, said the demand for health care in Ithaca and Tompkins County is unexpectedly large.

"The demand for our services is far greater than any of the projections we made when establishing this program," he said. "If this program makes it possible for more people to access state aid, it could do a lot to bridge the gap between need and accessibility."

Some of the FMAP funds will be spent on research on cost-effective treatments and the establishment of medical treatment standards. Brown said that establishing treatment stan-

dards could result in higher payment to providers for lower cost treatments.

"Any improvement as far as increasing or further establishing reimbursement standards is likely to be an incentive for offices that accept Medicaid," said Brown.

Accessibility to Medicaid benefits has been a hurdle for the Tompkins County Department of Social Services in the past. According to Carey, there are people in Tompkins County who are eligible but have not accessed Medicaid because of the long process and heavy amount of paperwork.

"Previously, applying for Medicaid has been a fairly onerous process," Carey said. "We've tried very hard to make it as easy as possible, but state regulations have made it difficult."

The governor's office and the state's health department are working to make Medicaid more accessible to those who need it.

Carey said changes have already been implemented in Tompkins County to expedite the application process. Officers can now conduct telephone interviews with applicants so they don't have to submit all documents in person.

Ultimately, the stimulus package will allow the Department of Social Services to reach out to the community, especially in these times of economic crisis, Carey said. Promoting awareness of Medicaid and sending the message that it can be obtained is important to the Department of Social Services, he said.

"We're advocating that people have Medicaid because it means that people have their health taken care of, and that should be a priority," Carey said. "We want people to know that [Medicaid] is out there, and it's something they're entitled to."

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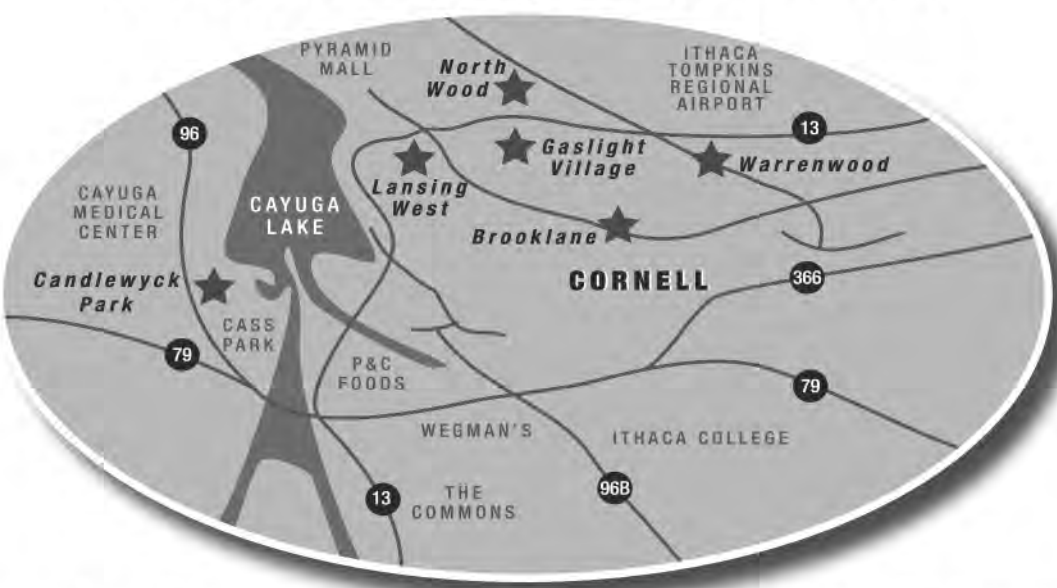


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# First openly gay Orthodox rabbi to give lecture

Steven Greenberg stepped out of the conventions of traditional religion when he became the first ordained rabbi to publicly announce his homosexuality along with his devotion to the Orthodox Jewish faith in 1999.

He is the author of "Wrestling With God and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition," a book in which he uses religious texts and personal experience to tackle the divergence between religion and homosexuality. He has also written several other articles about similar topics and has become an advocate for understanding and acceptance within the Jewish community.

Greenberg will speak at 7 p.m. Monday in Clark Lounge. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Staff writer Aaron Edwards spoke with Greenberg about his views on

Judaism, his book, homosexuality and the role Greenberg plays in the issue.

**Aaron Edwards:** Why did you decide to become a rabbi?

**Steven Greenberg:** As an adolescent I was just searching for meaning. It sounds a little trite, but I was trying to figure out what life was about and turned to English literature and philosophy and then eventually to Judaism. I found an English rabbi and began studying with him. I was really swept away with the depth and richness of Biblical, Rabbinic and Medieval Jewish materials, [and] I just decided this was the community I wanted to be a part of.

**AE:** In your role as a rabbi, what do you teach others who come to you asking about the topic of homosexuality?

**SG:** There's no one thing I say. It's often geared toward what specifically the person coming to me needs to talk about. ... I help them discover from within the traditional materials the possibility of living a good, rich life as a person of spiritual depth and moral integrity. So it's got to be possible to live like that as a gay person.

**AE:** I read an article you wrote, "The Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism," and in the article you called the gay Orthodox identity a "communal purgatory." What did you mean by that?

**SG:** You're kind of stuck to the extent that you want to go deeper into your Orthodox

identity [but] your gay identity withholds you so you find yourself neither here nor there. It's very difficult to find a community that's both religiously what you're seeking but still accepts and respects you as a member when you're openly gay.

**AE:** What prompted you to write your book, "Wrestling With God and Men?"

**SG:** It started with my article called "Gayness and God." It was printed in 1995 in Tikkun Magazine under a pseudonym, Rabbi Yaakov Levado, and that name comes from Genesis when Jacob is wrestling with an angel. I chose a few words in that narrative as my name because it says, "And Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled

with him all night." And Yaakov Levado [Jacob Alone in Hebrew] became like a name. That wrestling match was a really powerful image for me, and the loneliness prior to it also. ... That for me kind of signaled all sorts of things in my own search. The book I began to write after the article was published, and I began to kind of get responses and believed there was a reason to write further.

**AE:** What kind of responses to your sexuality and to the book did you get from the Orthodox community?

**SG:** Mixed responses — some encouraging and some encouraging with disagreement. It's going to take a while for people to read the book in the Orthodox world. It's been read in many places, and slowly Orthodox Jews and even Orthodox rabbis are beginning to read the book. Now even more than before I know that there are Orthodox people who are coming out of the closet and giving the book to their family members. It's being used by people in order to kind of make reconciliation among members of the same community and the same family.

**AE:** What are your thoughts on California's Proposition 8?

**SG:** I think it's the last graft of a desire to stop the trend happening all over America where Americans just don't understand any longer why the government should be telling us which marriages are legitimate when there are churches and synagogues doing gay marriages. It's delegitimizing those churches and synagogues that do them and the government can't be in the business of discerning which churches and synagogues are the right ones and which are the wrong ones. That is the specific reason that we have separation of church and state.



Steven Greenberg, a gay Jewish Orthodox rabbi, is the author of "Wrestling With God and Men." COURTESY OF STEVEN GREENBERG

**AE:** What do you hope to leave the Ithaca College community with after your lecture?

**SG:** The recognition that these aren't only a bunch of verses, but they are also people, and therefore one has to first allow there to be a space for listening to the human testimony. Our sacred texts — because they appear in language and words — are readable in multiple ways, and we ought to be able to find a way to read these texts in such a fashion that still allows 3 to 7 percent of the population to live decent lives.

**AE:** What are your hopes for the relationship between religion and homosexuality?

**SG:** Eventually I'm hoping it's boring. I'm hoping the people will say, "Boy, did we really give people a problem about that?"

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Public Safety Incident Log

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM  
FEBRUARY 19 TO FEBRUARY 28

<div><div>FEBRUARY 19</div><div><div><b>LARCENY</b> LOCATION: J-Lot SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a newspaper stand. Pending investigation. Sergeant William Kerry.</div><div><b>V&amp;T VIOLATION/LEAVING SCENE</b> LOCATION: Unknown location SUMMARY: Person reported an unknown vehicle damaged a parked vehicle and then left the scene. Pending investigation. Sergeant William Kerry.</div><div><b>FOUND PROPERTY</b> LOCATION: Office of Public Safety SUMMARY: Bracelet found and turned over to Public Safety. Unknown owner.</div><div><b>CCV/DRUG POLICY</b> LOCATION: Emerson Hall SUMMARY: 911 Center reported a person having chest pain. One person transported to CMC and judicially referred for violation of the drug policy. Master Patrol Officer Dirk Hightchew.</div></div></div> <div><div>FEBRUARY 20</div><div><div><b>FOUND PROPERTY</b> LOCATION: Mac's General Store SUMMARY: Set of keys found and turned over to Public Safety. Unknown owner.</div><div><b>AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT</b> LOCATION: Alumni Hall SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person made a threatening phone call. Pending investigation. Master Patrol Officer Dirk Hightchew.</div><div><b>MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED</b> LOCATION: Fitness Center SUMMARY: Caller reported a person sustained a head injury while cheer-leading. One person was transported to CMC by ambulance. Master Patrol Officer Donald Lyke.</div></div></div> <div><div>FEBRUARY 21</div><div><div><b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: Substation Road SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person damaged a mirror. Master Patrol Officer Dirk Hightchew.</div></div></div> <div><div><b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person damaged a light cover. Pending investigation. Master Patrol Officer Dirk Hightchew.</div><div><div><b>OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT</b> LOCATION: Coddington Road SUMMARY: Officer reported a burglary at an off-campus residence. Tompkins County Sheriff's Office investigating. Sergeant Ronald Hart.</div><div><b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: Towers Concourse SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown person damaged an exit sign. Pending investigation. Master Patrol Officer Dirk Hightchew.</div><div><b>ASSIST ITHACA POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> LOCATION: All other/City of Ithaca SUMMARY: Officer stopped a vehicle for going the wrong way on a one-way street. The operator was arrested by IPD for a DWI. Master Patrol Officer Erik Merlin.</div><div><b>UNLAWFUL POSS. OF MARIJUANA</b> LOCATION: Landon Hall SUMMARY: One person judicially referred for unlawful possession of marijuana. Patrol Officer Peter Wright.</div></div><div><div><b>CCV/FIRE SAFETY-RELATED OFFENSES</b> LOCATION: Terraces SUMMARY: Caller reported a clamp was attached to a sprinkler head and now cannot be removed. Two people judicially referred for tampering with fire safety equipment. Investigator Tom Dunn.</div><div><b>MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED</b> LOCATION: Hill Center SUMMARY: Caller reported a person sustained a nose injury while playing basketball. Person was taken to CMC by personal vehicle. Report taken. Patrol Officer James Landon.</div><div><b>ASSIST ITHACA POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> LOCATION: All other/City Of Ithaca SUMMARY: Caller requested assistance locating people that were involved in an off-campus incident. Four people were interviewed by the IPD.</div></div><div><div><b>MVA/PROPERTY DAMAGE</b> LOCATION: M-Lot SUMMARY: Person reported a one-car motor vehicle accident that occurred Feb. 24. Report taken. Master Patrol Officer Erik Merlin.</div><div><b>MVA/PROPERTY DAMAGE</b> LOCATION: Physical Plant Parking Lot SUMMARY: Caller reported a two-car motor vehicle accident. Report taken. Master Patrol Officer Erik Merlin.</div><div><b>FIRE ALARM</b> LOCATION: Lyon Hall SUMMARY: Fire alarm activation caused by kitchen stove fire. Fire extinguished and area ventilated. System reset. Fire Protection Specialist Mark Swanhart.</div><div><b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: Terraces SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown person damaged the wall in a stairwell. Pending investigation. Sergeant Ronald Hart.</div><div><b>ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE</b> LOCATION: Hilliard Hall SUMMARY: Caller reported a ball accidentally damaged a window. Report taken. Patrol Officer Peter Wright.</div><div><b>UNLAWFUL POSS. OF MARIJUANA</b> LOCATION: Garden Apartments SUMMARY: Three people judicially referred for unlawful possession of marijuana. Sergeant Ronald Hart.</div><div><b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: G-Lot SUMMARY: Person reported an unknown person damaged a vehicle. Pending investigation. Master Patrol Officer Erik Merlin.</div><div><b>MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED</b> LOCATION: Whalen Center For Music SUMMARY: Person reported to have sustained a knee injury. Person declined medical assistance. Report taken. Master Patrol Officer Dirk Hightchew.</div><div><b>CCV/UNDERAGE POSS. OF ALCOHOL</b> LOCATION: Garden Apartment Road SUMMARY: One person judicially referred for underage possession of alcohol. Patrol Officer Jeffrey Austin.</div><div><b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: L-Lot SUMMARY: One person judicially referred for underage possession of alcohol. Patrol Officer Jeffrey Austin.</div><div><b>CRIMINAL TRESPASS</b> LOCATION: Circle Apartments SUMMARY: Officer reported a person entered and immediately left an apartment and another person was in possession of alcohol. One person judicially referred for unlawful entry and both referred for underage possession of alcohol. Master Security Officer George Whitmore.</div><div><b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown person damaged an elevator panel. Pending investigation. Patrol Officer James Landon.</div><div><b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: Circle Lot 9 SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person damaged a vehicle. Pending investigation. Master Patrol Officer Dirk Hightchew.</div><div><b>FOR THE COMPLETE SAFETY LOG,</b> go to <a href="http://www.theithacan.org/news">www.theithacan.org/news</a></div></div></div> <div data-bbox="1643 1628 1782 1662" data-label="Section-Header"><div>KEY</div></div> <div data-bbox="1596 1690 1895 1939" data-label="Text"><p>CMC – Cayuga Medical Center CCV – College Code Violation DWI – Driving while intoxicated IFD – Ithaca Fire Department IPD – Ithaca Police Department MVA – Motor vehicle accident RA – Resident assistant SASP – Student Auxiliary Safety Patrol V&amp;T – Vehicle and Transportation</p></div> <div data-bbox="90 1992 439 2669" data-label="Complex-Block"><div><div>Your Thursday is not complete without</div><div>THE ITHACAN</div><div>Your day is not complete without</div><div>THE ITHACAN online</div></div></div> <div data-bbox="465 1992 1183 2669" data-label="Complex-Block"><div><div><div><div>HOUSE OF SHALIMAR</div><div>142 THE COMMONS</div><div>273-7939 open everyday</div><div>Come Check Out our Lindsay Phillips SwitchFlops</div><div>houseofshalimar.com</div><div>Join our Facebook page and Facebook Group: House of Shalimar</div></div></div><div><div>New Arrivals for Spring and Summer Every Week</div><div></div></div></div></div> <div data-bbox="1209 1992 1925 2669" data-label="Complex-Block"><div><div>ITHACA COLLEGE TELEVISION</div><div><div><div>On TV</div></div><div><div>Online</div></div><div><div>On the Go</div></div></div><div>ICTV... it's everywhere</div></div></div> <div data-bbox="90 2697 1925 3024" data-label="Complex-Block"><div><div>What's your next step?</div><div>ITHACA</div><div>DIVISION OF GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES</div><div><a href="http://www.ithaca.edu/gradstudies">www.ithaca.edu/gradstudies</a></div></div></div>
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## EDITORIALS

## A MISGUIDED DISCUSSION

The college's new poster program attempts to illustrate a diverse campus but instead skews the actual definition

The new campaign "i Am Diverse," created by Ithaca College's Diversity Awareness Committee, aims to highlight "diverse characteristics" in the campus community. Though every person's individual experience and ideas are positive additions to the campus community, they do not necessarily make the college a diverse community. The program promotes diversity in terms of obvious, and sometimes typical, differences but diminishes the hard points that need to be made in the discussion. The idea that one person can create diversity eliminates the need for diversity within a group.

Creating a poster campaign to prove that the college's mostly white, upper-middle class population is a diverse community minimizes a real problem the college has failed to address year after year. The ability to recruit and retain African, Latino, Asian and Native American students, faculty and staff is a major issue, one that must be addressed by the administration during higher education's enrollment crisis.

The committee's motivation for creating this campaign is valid: There does need to be more dialogue about diversity on campus, and this can mean more than just issues regarding race and sexuality. But labeling the college community diverse because of any and every difference, such as where one grew up or what one's hobbies are, appears trivial and is unfair to the real work being done in institutions such as the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity.

Understanding and admitting the college campus is far from a diverse community will greatly improve the college's outcome in the strategic visioning process. Prospective students will look critically at the demographics of the student and faculty population when making their decision about whether to pay tuition dollars. For the sake of the college's future, the administration and the campus community must also use that same critical eye to evaluate and combat the college's lack of diversity. This can only come by first admitting that the college has a long way to go before becoming the poster child for diversity.

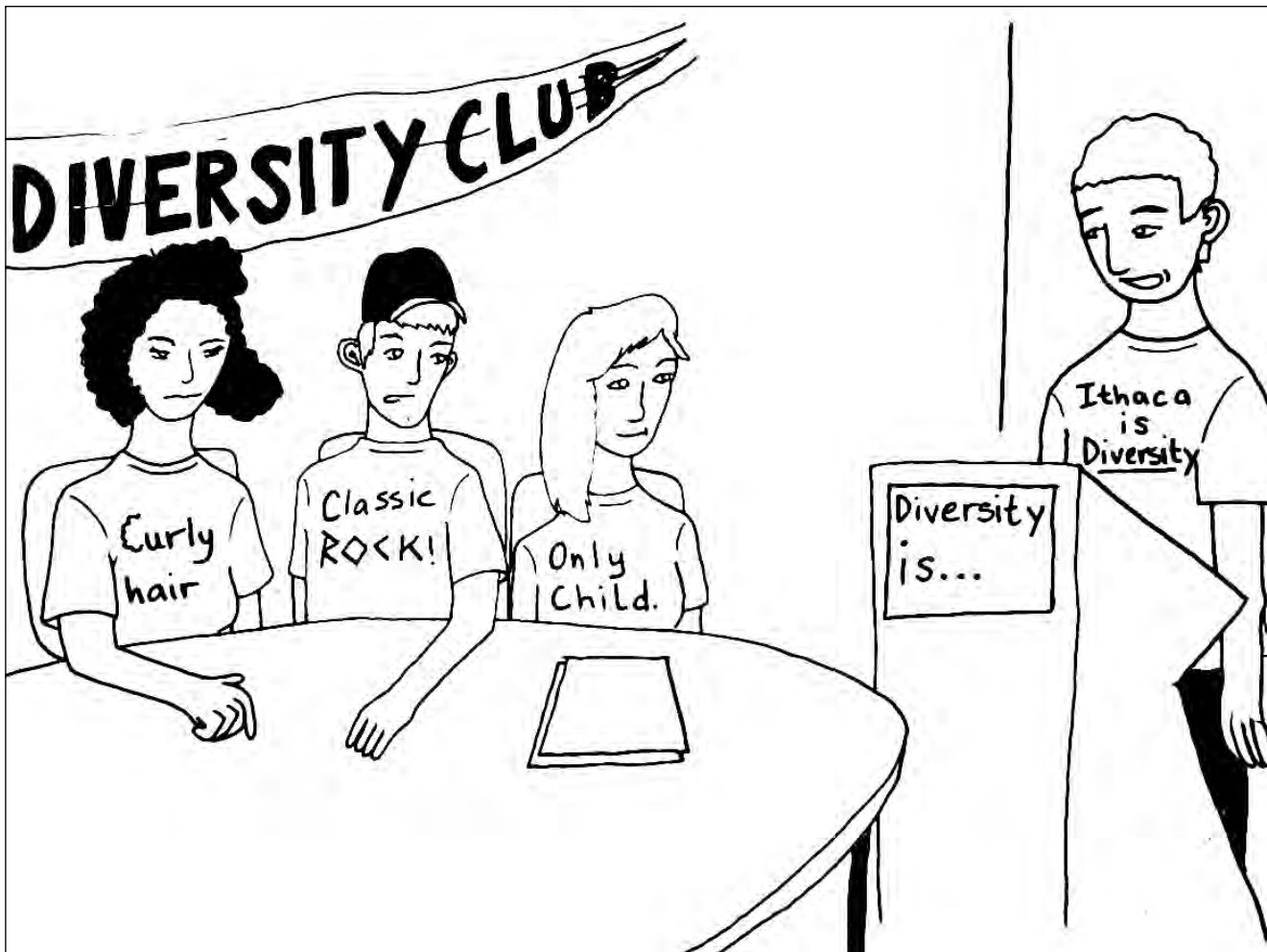
## SERVICE SALUTE

Student community outreach programs are given top honors for commitment

Ithaca College student volunteers made the grade for the third consecutive year, receiving the honor of being named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The award is the highest federal honor a college or university can receive in recognition for community service efforts. It is encouraging to see students continue to go beyond their academic bubble and stay involved and connected with the community.

The college was specifically noted for programs such as Community Plunge and its observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day through acts of community service. The campus is encouraged to continue recognizing the crucial role service plays in giving students a quality educational experience, promote these programs, and create new ones.

During this current time of transition and economic strain, the administration should remember the importance of connecting with the community and keep it a part of the new vision. Faculty, staff and students should also offer suggestions to help integrate more ways to reach beyond South Hill through service. Connecting service with learning outcomes in the classroom will enrich the student body population and create a culture that is service-minded even after graduation.



## SNAP JUDGMENT

**Definition differences**  
How do you define diversity?



"I WOULD SAY A GROUP NOT CONFORMING TO ONE SPECIFIC CRITERIA, AN OVERALL LACKING OF SIMILARITY AND A MELTING POT."

**NADER KHALIL '09 FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

"DIVERSITY IS KNOWING PEOPLE WITH OTHER THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS THAN YOUR OWN AND LEARNING AND KNOWING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE WHOSE OPINIONS VARY FROM YOUR OWN."

**STACY SAUPPE '11 DRAMA/SOCIOLOGY**

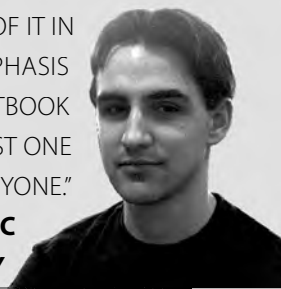


"THE COMPREHENSION AND ACCEPTANCE OF PEOPLE THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT'S SOCIALLY NORMAL."

**RENA OSTRY '12 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

"I'VE GONE THROUGH A LOT OF DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS OF IT IN MY LIFE AND ESPECIALLY IN COLLEGE BECAUSE OF THE EMPHASIS THAT IS PUT ON IT HERE ... BUT I KEEP RETURNING TO THE TEXTBOOK DEFINITION [WHICH IS] ANYTHING THAT EMPHASIZES NOT JUST ONE GROUP OF PEOPLE BUT EVERYONE."

**NICHOLAS KELLY '09 MUSIC COMPOSITION AND THEORY**



"MY DEFINITION OF DIVERSITY IS JUST KNOWING A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES AND BACKGROUNDS."

**ALYSSA CAFER '12 PSYCHOLOGY**



## SPEAK YOUR MIND.

Write a letter to the editor [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu)  
250 words or less, e-mailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 269

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

# Individual schools must collaborate on vision

Great minds really do think alike. And many of the best minds at Ithaca College — among our students, our faculty, our alumni and our staff — have long asked the same questions: Why is it so hard for students and faculty in one school to work collaboratively with students and faculty in another? Why can't our exceptional schools work together in the service of a single, extraordinary college? These questions came up again and again in the college's strategic visioning process.

And it's the question that has driven the current proposal to move us toward an "integrative" Ithaca College, an institution defined by its commitment to disciplinary mastery, experiential practice and the innovation, leadership, teamwork and outcomes that result from strategic collaboration.



DIANNE LYNCH

What would this look like? In a truly collaborative college setting, the possibilities for learning and experimentation would be as varied as the students and faculty imagining them. And the structures and systems of the college would be flexible enough to foster innovation and breakthrough ideas.

One "Park School" possibility might engage students in a process of development, planning and execution in such team projects as:

- A "Creative Studio," in which students in cinema, television, photography, screenwriting, English, writing, integrated marketing, art, theater, music, legal studies and business could produce a film for screenings in Los Angeles and New York;
- An "Outdoor Adventure Studio" in which students in the natural sciences, outdoor adventure leadership, environmental science, environmental studies, writing, social studies, health policy, Spanish, cinema, screenwriting and photography could explore the history, economy, biodiversity and culture of the Peruvian Amazon; travel to the region for an extended trip; and produce a documentary or photo exhibit for presentation;
- A "How the World Works Exhibit" in which



From left, Lauren O'Connell, associate professor of art history, and Steve Clancy, professor and chair of the art history department, attend the strategic visioning presentation Feb. 17 in Emerson Suites. TJ GUNTHER/THE ITHACAN

students in art, physics, chemistry, biology, photography, education, mathematics, music, writing, immersive media and gaming, integrated marketing and computer science could develop a traveling exhibition of interactive games introducing the basic principles of physics, chemistry and biology for use by children's museums; or

•A "Healthy Living Exhibit" in which students in chemistry, biology, biochemistry, premed, occupational therapy, physical therapy, gerontology, integrated marketing communications, psychology, sociology, gaming and immersive media, music recording and screenwriting could produce a series of interactive modules on health care topics — from exercise to memory retention — to be installed in kiosks at Longview or Cayuga Medical.

Other integrative models might include accelerated, certificate or extended degree programs on campus and online; new approaches to academic

advising; and new opportunities for experiential learning. John Seely Brown, former director of Xerox Park and our 2004 Park Distinguished Speaker, said, "The way forward is paradoxically not to look ahead but to look around."

It is good advice for the college. Because when we do that, a couple of things become clear: We have everything we need to be the best undergraduate comprehensive college in the country. And the path forward is not a line but a network: It connects us — school to school, program to program, opportunity to opportunity, in a new and dynamic cross-section of powerful possibilities.

We are one Ithaca College, and together, we are greater than the sum of our individual parts. It's time to realize — and leverage — what that means.

**DIANNE LYNCH** is dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications. E-mail her at [dlynch@ithaca.edu](mailto:dlynch@ithaca.edu).

## GUEST COMMENTARY

# Differently abled students cope with campus life

Ever noticed how the only accessible way to get from the bookstore to the Campus Center is to physically go outside, walk a bit, go down a ramp, across the street and up another ramp just to get into the building?

For an able-bodied student it's just up one simple flight of stairs. I'm differently abled (also known as the more commonly used terms disabled or handicapped), and often I have had to fight for my rights at Ithaca College. I would never dream of going into Dillingham, Friends Hall or the library-side entrance of Muller or Job, because I know I would probably kill myself on a flight of stairs. I don't need the school to help make my pain worse.

There are groups at the college, such as Academic Support Services, who are amazing to students like me. But many on campus, the closed-minded and ignorant, make daily life nearly impossible for differently abled students. The college claims open-mindedness, diversity and support for its students as written in the open-mindedness vision and mission statement — yet these words are hypocritical. As a differently abled student, I don't see this "open-mindedness."



HUNTER LIA ZAGER



Comedian Jeff Charlebois kicked off the college's National Disability Awareness Month events in October 2007 in Emerson Suites. FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

I have Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, a disease that is literally one of the most excruciating conditions known to modern medicine. Every time I have to walk farther, or put more strain or stress on my body, I'm literally feeding this disease. Recently when the Phillips Hall elevator broke down, I was forced to walk up the steep stairs for a week. The process was painful and awful. While out-of-date elevators take a day off, my disease doesn't. Broken elevators, a lack of accessible entrances and areas where I have to pathetically wait for another student to walk by to help me

because I can't maneuver my body to open a heavy door are just some of the ways the college neglects students' common welfare. I've had professors make fun of my condition to the class, a teacher tell me he can't save a seat by the door to limit the pain of climbing over other students and a campus doctor belittle my condition. I was also told the London Center was fully accessible only to get there to find a five-story, completely, 100 percent non-accessible building. And consistently, I have been nothing but insulted through my nonstop battle with Residential Life for accessible housing and

rights. Recently, I wrote to President Tom Rochon requesting that the college put together a plan to make the school more accessible to all students. He has received the letter but has failed to acknowledge the suffering differently abled members of campus go through on a daily basis. If those running the school don't care about the rest of the community, how will positive change ever occur?

Being handicap-accessible is the law. It makes campus friendlier to prospective students (why should they consider a campus that disregards the minority?). It doesn't matter if you are permanently differently abled, an older professor or a student temporarily on crutches, the campus must be more accessible to everyone.

New York state has many categories of how a person is considered differently abled. One of the biggest reasons is the inability to walk more than 200 feet without stopping. So why does a differently abled student have to walk more than 3,000 feet to get to an accessible entrance? I don't know what the laws are for how much a school has to be accessible, but I do know one thing — whatever the laws, Ithaca is barely making the grade, if at all.

**HUNTER LIA ZAGER** is a senior communications management and design major. E-mail her at [hunterlia.z@gmail.com](mailto:hunterlia.z@gmail.com).



INSIDE THE DIVIDE

KENDRA SUNDAL

## Societal norms have racist past

A close friend of mine believes that all white people are racist. Historically, racism comes from social structures in the U.S. that have made it possible for whites to back up prejudice with power, while the oppressed can never exert that same power and therefore can never be racist. So goes the argument.

She and I have discussed this many times, because I'd like to believe that we are all, regardless of skin color, capable of overcoming our prejudices. I agree that we are socialized within racist structures, and by benefiting from these structures without always being aware of them, white people are often complacently, if not always overtly, racist. On the other hand, I think it is possible to raise awareness and fight against the institutionalized racism that reinforces racial hierarchies in the U.S. While the recent election may be a sign of progress, racism is still deeply rooted in our society, and we must be vigilant in working to eradicate racism in our own lives, and in society at large.

The racialized history in the U.S. complicates cross-racial relations, but it's a problem when that knowledge manifests into "white guilt." Feeling guilty is unproductive, though it's an important step in realizing how much we benefit today from pre-existing racist institutions. Still, we need to be able to take our historical knowledge and use it productively to educate ourselves on the structures of oppression and learn to be self-critical. From there we can begin to contribute positively to change those institutions and to live in a way that breaks with the past and brings us to a different future.

At Ithaca College we are privileged to have access to an entire department dedicated to culture, race and ethnicity. It is one way to open ourselves to the questions and issues surrounding race in our society. Still, there is only so much to be gained from formal learning. It is also important to take advantage of opportunities to meet new people and to attend events where people want to be engaged in open dialogue about diversity. We each have the potential to face our prejudices head on and work to break them down.

When we begin to see how we fit into the bigger picture, we can create a future that is less racialized, if not "post-racial." Overcoming a long history of racial oppression will take true dedication to dismantle the structures that have perpetuated it. The election of President Barack Obama is just one step in that direction. We still have a long way to go. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. ... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

**KENDRA SUNDAL** is a senior politics major. E-mail her at [ksundal1@ithaca.edu](mailto:ksundal1@ithaca.edu).





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Share Your Story!

The Diversity Awareness Committee invites you to share your unique experiences and life story with the campus community by creating your own mini-poster as part of the *i Am Diverse* campaign.

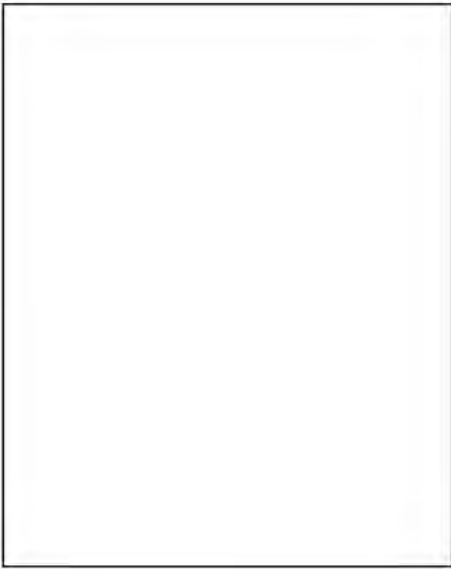
- 1) **Attach** an image of yourself, or draw one in. This is optional.
- 2) **Write** your name or identity. This is optional.
- 3) **Share** any identities you want with the campus community. You can use any descriptions, and we challenge you to go beyond the "typical" identities (such as ethnicity, gender, etc.) Remember, these cards will be on display for the campus.

Return all completed mini-posters to the drop boxes at the Info Desk or Dillingham Center Lobby March 23 - March 27.

The mini-posters will be displayed in the Campus Center **March 31 - April 2, 2009.**

Questions?  
<http://www.ithaca.edu/sacl/committees/diversity/>

**Club Leaders, Professors, Department Chairs:** Want to have your group participate? Please visit the website for bulk orders of the mini-posters.



Name

Identities you want to share:

i Am Diverse



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EVAN FALK/THE ITHACAN

Research shows college students are reversing the stereotypical gender roles when hooking up

BY MICHELLE SKOWRONEK  
ASSISTANT ACCENT EDITOR

Eric, an Ithaca College freshman, has something his friends don't — his virginity. It's not because he has bad luck with girls. Eric says he just has different ideas about hooking up. Though his friends might not get it — new data show that plenty of other college students do.

Rebecca Plante, associate professor of sociology, recently conducted a nationwide survey researching the hooking up behaviors of college students, who defined a "hookup" as an intimate physical interaction outside of a relationship — from kissing to having intercourse. Plante presented the results of her four-year-long study to the campus community on Feb. 25, in a lecture called "Hooking Up in the Little City." She said a common misconception on college campuses is that males are searching for hookups but not relationships and that females are looking for serious commitments. But her local research found that students are reversing these assumed gender roles.

"I found that some guys at Ithaca College don't want to have sex with every girl they see," Plante said. "[And] some girls on this campus are strictly not looking for a relationship."

Though Eric's teammates on the football team laughed when he told them he has never hooked up with anyone, Plante's research proves his passive approach to the opposite sex is not as uncommon as students might think.

Other students — who, along with Eric, asked to have their full names withheld — have also reversed the gender stereotypes.

Caitlin, a junior, said she's not interested enough in anyone to dedicate time to a relationship. She said she takes a casual approach to hooking up. She said her hookups have mostly been with men she knows personally or through a friend, not people she chooses at random.

"I just let whatever happens happen," Caitlin said. "If I don't meet someone, I either go home or crash at a friend's place."

Plante's nationwide data did not show

a change in percentages of sexually active young adults, but her interviews with Ithaca College students revealed that those who are hooking up take a different approach than their parents did, during a time when men were typically the ones to initiate a date, hookup or relationship.

Justine, a sophomore, said when

"I'm just along for the ride; I want to follow her lead."

—ERIK

she goes to parties with her single girlfriends, she notices they often take on a traditionally masculine role by seeking out a hookup for the night.

"Girls want to feel important," she said. "Some might use hooking up as a validation of that."

But for many women, hooking up doesn't always mean racking up notches on the bedpost. Plante's research found that women often look for a steady partner in order to build a physical connection with a sexual rhythm. She said when having sex with a partner for the first time, heterosexual women only orgasm 32 percent as often as men do. The percentage increases each time the two partners have sex. Plante's statistics show that women in a relationship experience an orgasm 79 percent as often as their boyfriends. She said moving from man to man does not usually leave a woman sexually satisfied.

"It's obvious women need to have sex multiple

times with the same partner to climax," Plante said.

Erik, a sophomore, said he knows pleasing women takes time and attention, so he takes a backseat when it comes to hooking up.

"For me, the girl dictates the pace and determines whether or not a hookup takes place," he said. "She also determines if there is more to the hookup or not. I'm just along for the ride; I want to follow her lead."

Erik said letting one woman in particular assume the dominant role led him to what he said is the best relationship he has ever had — though he said it's up to her to decide when they will make it official.

"I would ask her out right now, but I don't want to rush anything," he said. "Whenever she's ready, I'm ready."

Jessie, a junior, said though many of her girlfriends are looking for a serious commitment, she doesn't plan on having a relationship in college.

"I don't really have the time and energy to dedicate to another person," she said. "It's hard enough trying to get through all of the things I have to do on a day-to-day basis without worrying

about someone else all the time."

Jessie said not only is living the single life liberating, it also prevents possible disappointment.

"Most guys aren't looking for a relationship, so if you go in without expectations, you're less likely to get hurt," she said.

Eric refrains from hooking up not because he doesn't know how to woo a woman but because he chooses not to. He said opportunities are out there for him and others like him, but taking someone different home every night is just not his style.

"I've turned down hooking up a few times in high school and in college and not because I didn't find the girls attractive," he said. "Hooking up outside of a long-term relationship just isn't for me, and I get ridiculed for it."

Eric thinks he stands out among the traditional crowd of drunk, sex-driven college students at weekend parties, but he said he wakes up in the morning with no regrets.

"For those that do bother me about it, they look at it as me being inferior to them," he said. "I look at it as not conforming to their pressures and expectation of me."

DEFINING THE DEED

Students interviewed for this article define the ambiguous term "hooking up" in their own words.



engaging in sexual relations with a person whom you are not in a relationship with — beyond just kissing.



kissing, making out, maybe a little more, like some gentle boob action.



making out or having sex with someone on a consistent basis but not having a relationship.



anything sexual that happens between two people that aren't in a long-term relationship.



anything more than making out — all forms of sex included.



anything from kissing to having sex and getting heavy in between.





# Hot or Not

This week's hits and misses



Assistant Accent Editor Michelle Skowronek recaps the best and worst spring break hot spots.

## Hot

### The Grand Floridian

It doesn't get much better than being on a beach, surrounded by peers from around the country, drinking exotic cocktails and relaxing. Florida's beaches are packed during spring break, but the crowd is completely worth it. With the perfect mix of Caribbean and Mexican cultures, flavored by a splash of familiarity, Florida is the No. 1 getaway for college students on a budget. Granted, flight prices can get hefty, but a one-week vacation to the party-central location outweighs any price. Whether it's Daytona, Panama City or West Palm, Florida offers the best tropical atmosphere, cuisine and drink menu without needing a passport.

## Lukewarm

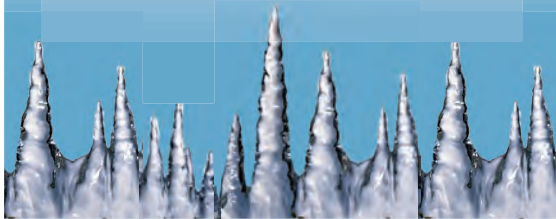
### Georgia Peaches

Taking a road trip with a team can be an amazing experience. Staying in a hotel in a big group always calls for funny prank phone calls, running around in underwear and no curfew guidelines. But for the men's and women's crew teams, taking an 18-hour bus ride to Gainesville, Ga., wasn't quite the vacation they had hoped for. Starting the day at 7 a.m., rowing for two hours and hauling boats to and from boat-houses was an extra added burden to the physically draining trip. The team bonding was great, the southern experience was memorable — but they all could have done without the dried-out blisters.

## Not

### Friends Lab Junky

It's one thing not to have money to spend on a nice spring break getaway. It's another to spend the last of your spare change on the vending machines outside Friends Lab during break. Unoccupied Ithaca can be quite tranquil, but locking oneself in one of the school's computer labs until 3 a.m. is just not necessary, cool or refreshing during spring break. There is a distinct difference between getting work done and making work to do, and there is no way professors wanted to grade that much homework when they came back. It's called "break" for a reason.



## Mixing 'the force'

Brian Lawrence spins his latest mix of songs last Sunday at The Haunt. Lawrence's band, Binary, plays industrial rock music and regularly performs at the bar. Sunday's jam session was topped off with a guest appearance by DarkFader & Law, another eclectic rock group.

DAVID KORMAN/THE ITHACAN

# wtf

## ENGLISH BLUE DUCKS LOOKING FOR MORE THAN JUST BREAD BY THE POND

If animals could post to the increasingly popular FMyLife.com, Cherry the duck would have the perfect entry. Last week at a wetland center in England, Cherry was introduced to Jerry, a male blue duck, in the hopes of furthering their endangered species. While Cherry was attracted, Jerry was more interested in ruffling the feathers of Ben, another duck. The two males hit it off, making it clear that more and more blue ducks are becoming gay this season.

— Matt Biddle

# number 58

The percentage of people who prefer Coke over Pepsi in a poll based out of a North Dakota park. Voters were randomly selected as they walked throughout the park, and some even tried to persuade pollers with their answers. The reasoning behind one Pepsi fan's love for the soft drink left pollers questioning his legitimacy. "I suppose it's because I haven't had an actual Coke in over three years," he said. Ding! Ding! Round one goes to Coca-Cola.

— Michelle Skowronek

# 1 quoteunquote

## If she won't listen to Oprah, who will she listen to?

Perez Hilton on Monday to MTV News about Rihanna's decision to get back together with boyfriend Chris Brown.

## hot dates

### thursday

**Magple Gallery Open House Welcome Day**, a showing of the gallery's latest work, will go from noon to 7 p.m. at the Magple Gallery Shop. Admission is free.

**The Rozatones: Revi's Birthday Bash**, featuring Sophistafunk, will begin at 9 p.m. at Castaways.

### friday

**Jazz Happy Hour**, featuring the Diana Leigh Jazz Quartet, will go from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Oasis. Admission is free.

**Technicolor Trailer Park**, featuring El Ka Bong and P-Spot, will begin at 10 p.m. at The Nines. Admission is \$5.

**IC '09 Happy Hour**, a party for Ithaca College seniors with three drink specials and free wings and garlic knots, will go from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Moonshadow Tavern. Admission is \$1 with a senior card and \$2 without.

### saturday

**Club Z**, featuring two local radio hosts and DJ Nicky Wood, will begin at 10 p.m. at The Haunt. Admission is \$5 for people over 21 and \$7 for people under 21. There is a special discount with college ID.

### sunday

**Man on Wire**, a French documentary directed by James Marsh, will begin at 4:30 p.m. at Cornell University in Willard Straight Theatre. General admission is \$6.50, \$5 for seniors and \$4 for students and children.



# Players to take stage

## Campus theater group to perform humorous rendition of 'Rumors'

BY AARON EDWARDS  
STAFF WRITER

The posh, fashionable socialites of "Gossip Girl" may have to pack up their Gucci bags and Versace gowns to make room for a new cast of gossiping characters soon to hit the Ithaca College theater scene.

They are none other than the characters in the IC Players' production of "Rumors," written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Neil Simon. With a slight grin and an assuring nod, junior and director Dave Grossman said the play will be "two hours of hilarious, fast-paced tension."

"Rumors" is the farcical story of four couples who arrive at the upper-crust home of Charlie and Myra Brock — two characters who are never seen — for a lavish anniversary dinner. The first couple to arrive, Ken and Chris Gorman, find their host Charlie in his room with a gunshot wound in his ear lobe. His wife is nowhere to be found.

In an effort to conceal the "complication," the two fabricate stories, ideas and rumors to distract the arriving guests from the incident. Their attempts lead to an evening of misconception, twists, turns and back spasms — eventually involving the intervention of the police.

The high-society characters clamor to protect a secret that starts as an inaudible whisper and gradually builds into an issue affecting everyone in the house.

Sophomore Ana Maria Mutchler, who plays Claire Ganz, the resi-

dent gossip girl, said there isn't a dull moment in the show.

"It's one of those shows that you have to pick up on the little things because they'll come back," she said.

Grossman said he is happy to bring "Rumors" to IC Players. He said actors like Mutchler play their roles to near perfection.

"Ana Maria comes in every day with questions about her character and then in every run-through, does it a little bit differently and adds a little something extra to [her role]," he said. "I looked at [the show] yesterday for a bit and thought, wow, every person in this cast is absolutely perfect for their part."

Senior cast member Joe Roksandic, who plays the intermittently stressed analyst Ernie Cusack, said the characters in the play represent exaggerated personalities of realistic people.

"Everybody is a character," he said. "They're not real at all — they're caricatures. There's a base of reality, but they're all kind of nuts."

Senior Ashley Morris, who plays the busybody Chris Gorman, said her experience in her role was a particularly interesting one because she has played Chris in another production of "Rumors."

"It's interesting to see the different ways in which I can create her into a new person, so I'm not just replicating what I did the first time I did it," she said.

The IC Players' production of "Rumors," much like other comedies by Simon, promises fast-paced



The cast of the IC Players' production "Rumors" rehearses March 5 in the Dorothy D. and Roy H. Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise. The cast plans on bringing individual creativity to the show.

LAUREN DECICCA/THE ITHACAN

action and slapstick humor. Morris said the audience will easily relate to the comedy she and other actors bring to the stage.

"It's got a lot of humor that you don't have to really work to be amused," she said. "It's flat out there funny."

Roksandic said under Grossman's direction, the craziness of the charac-

ters has shone through in rehearsal.

"I've worked with [Grossman] before ... he knows what he's doing," Roksandic said.

Grossman said his vision for the show was simple and unadorned to let the audience have a good time.

"It's a farce," he said. "The point

of it isn't to come away with a moral or some really big message, I just want people to leave the theater and say, 'You know what? The last two hours were a lot of fun.'"

*"Rumors" will be performed at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Clark Lounge in Campus Center.*

# Coed a cappella group streams individual style with harmony

BY WHITNEY FABER  
STAFF WRITER

Coldplay, Pink, Radiohead, The Thief and Zox are not the typical composers for songs sung by an a cappella group. Jeans, untucked dress shirts, plaid skirts and individual styles are not the typical outfits for performers in a concert.

But Ithaca College's a cappella group Voicestream has never followed the classic conventions of what is expected of a college singing group — and after seven years of reinventing and rebuilding, the 18-member coed group is progressing toward the success it has always wanted to achieve.

For Voicestream, coupling contemporary songs from the '90s with a casual yet intensely dedicated group has brought the opportunity to tour at other colleges and high schools.

Voicestream will travel Saturday to Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania to sing with its a cappella group. In the past, the group has also traveled to perform and teach workshops at high schools in the Boston area and in Brattleboro, Vt.

The group is also producing its first album in five years called "Acapocalypse," scheduled to be released in fall 2009. The CD is a mix of songs the group has performed in the past two years.

Senior and Voicestream President Joe Goodliffe said touring helps expose the group to new ideas and allows them to make their sound more innovative.

"We definitely want to keep going and touring because it's a very different experience getting to listen to other groups and getting to teach people what we do," he said.

In the future, the group hopes to enter competitions in the area and would like to see one of the songs from its CD on the "Best of College A Cappella" list, Goodliffe said.

Unlike traditional a cappella groups, Voicestream is made up mostly of nonmusic majors, so the group must overcome the hurdle of working with members that may not be able to read music.

Goodliffe said having less experienced members is both an advantage and a disadvantage, as they often bring a new perspective to the music. But, it also may take extra time to learn a piece.

"It allows more freedom for arrangements," he said. "Rather than focusing on the pure musicality and the music rules, it's more about doing it all by ear."

Voicestream sets itself apart as the college's only coed group. The mix of nine women and eight men in the group brings diversity and a more rounded sound.

Junior Tia Newsome, the group's social coordinator, said because it has such a variety of members, Voicestream can avoid catering to the classic expectations of a college a cappella group and focus on a more modern feel.

"We want to branch out and show that everyday modern music can be used as great a cappella pieces," she said.

Newsome said her favorite song the group performs is "High Time I Got Mine" by The Feast. She said it is a song the group has taken from the radio and brought to the a cappella stage.

"That's our most complex piece," Newsome said. "It's the piece where all the different parts have really fun and intricate music."



Members of Voicestream pose after an A Cappella Festival last February in Brattleboro, Vt. Voicestream is known for its quirkiness, style, originality and individual personalities.

COURTESY OF VOICESTREAM

Staying loyal to their modern philosophy, the performers dress casually for all of their concerts, inserting each person's individual fashion sense into the group's image.

Goodliffe said this difference in Voicestream's overall look is what makes it stand out and makes the group memorable when it goes on tours.

"We call it 'dressy rock,'" he said. "It can be anything from jeans, a button-down shirt and tie [for guys], and girls will wear jeans with a skirt and a really cool dressy top."

Senior Vice President Lou Caligiuri said that combining the individual styles and personalities to create a more relaxed and informal atmosphere is at the roots of the group's dynamic.

"We are all so different and unique, but at

the same time when we all walk into that door, because we are such a cohesive group, all those differences just melt away," he said.

Junior Garin Bulger saw Voicestream perform in the past and said the casual look and approach to the performance was what grabbed his attention.

"They have more personality than other groups," Bulger said. "It makes their concerts more lively and entertaining to watch."

Flying in the face of convention and meeting success along the way, Voicestream will continue to travel and grow in the coming years.

*Voicestream's next performance at Ithaca College will be April 18.*



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# Ukulele players seek appreciation for quirky music

**BY ALEXANDRA PALOMBO**  
STAFF WRITER

At more than 6 feet tall, Ithaca College junior Nick Bombicino is physically intimidating, but the broad-shouldered funnyman is also a natural performer with a silky, deep voice who plays piano, drums and brass instruments. His large hands look as though they could crush his tiny ukulele. But for Bombicino, that sight gag is part of the Hawaiian instrument's appeal.

"It's small, and I'm a bigger guy, and I'm tall, so holding this tiny little thing is a little bit ridiculous," he said.

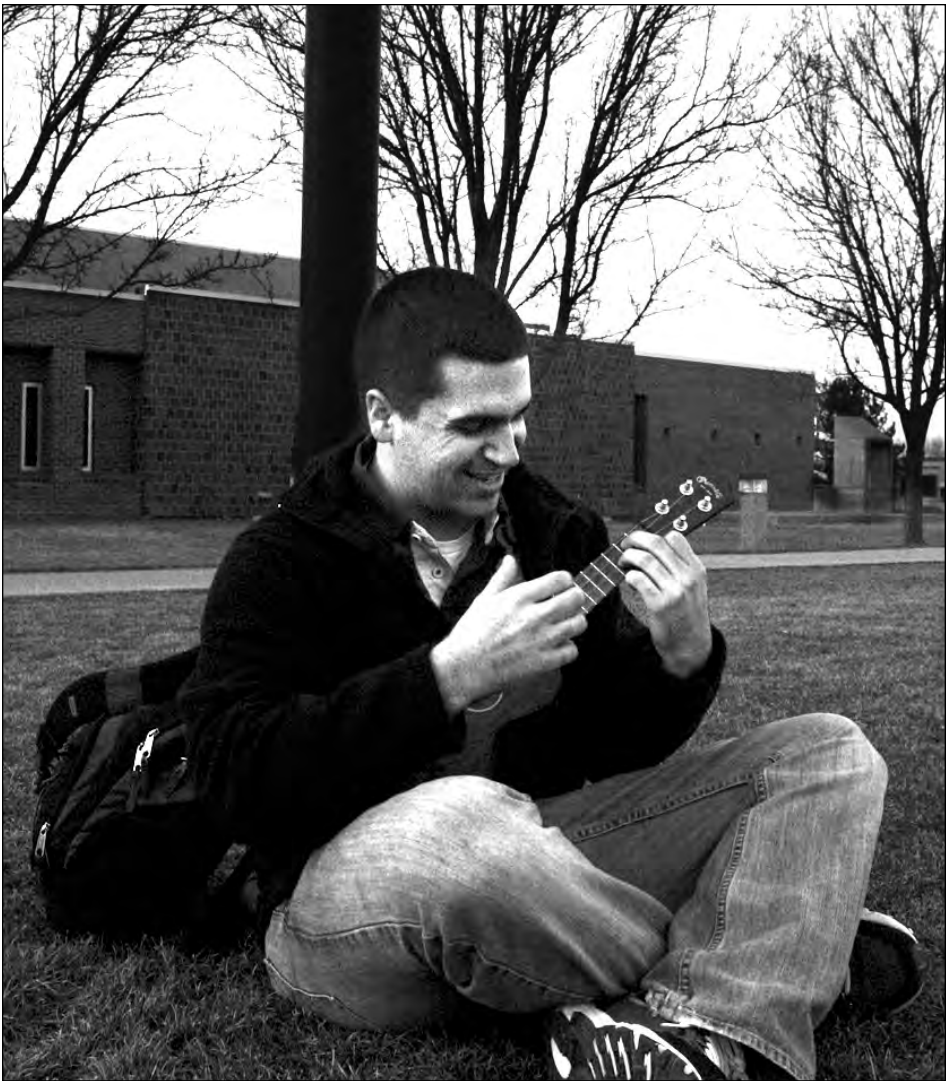
It's a gag that Bombicino and fellow ukulele player junior Connor Franklin aim to share with other students. They have played their original mash-ups at Voicestream concerts, since both are members of the college's coed a cappella group, and late at night at weekend parties. Senior Danielle Hendrickson said the duo's performance at the Block IV Voicestream concert last May was a pleasant surprise.

"It was very unexpected, and I was pretty impressed," she said. "It's a really strange addition, but it sounds adorable."

Bombicino first picked up the ukulele in high school in order to teach an actor in a play he directed and met Franklin through Voicestream in 2008. Franklin, who is known for performing barefoot, received his baritone ukulele as a Christmas gift from a relative ("I think by mistake," he said). He also plays the guitar and the piano but said he's partial to the ukulele.

"It's a lot of fun to perform with because you can focus more on your performance," he said. "There's two less strings to worry about than if you're playing a guitar."

During performances Bombicino and Franklin strum away on their ukuleles, each singing a different pop song while managing to stay in sync without throwing the other off. The result is an offbeat and funny



Junior Nick Bombicino sings and strums his ukulele Tuesday outside the Roy H. Park School of Communications. He and junior Connor Franklin create mash-ups of pop songs for the ukulele.

LAUREN DECICCA/THE ITHACAN

musical performance.

Because the ukulele is seen as more of a humorous instrument, its credibility is always questioned. Both Franklin and Bombicino agree that while there is potential to be taken seriously with a ukulele, like famous Hawaiian artist Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, there is also a tonal quality inherent to the ukulele

that makes legitimacy difficult outside of Hawaii, where the instrument is used for traditional island ceremonies and rituals.

"There is an element of difficulty in being serious when you do have the 'rinky-dinky-dink' of the ukulele because, try as hard as you can, it's very hard to get the 'rinky-dink' out of the ukulele," Bombicino said.

Sophomore Lena Weinstein, who also plays the ukulele, said it has an image that is different from many other more conventional instruments.

"The ukulele is sometimes passed off as a comedy instrument," she said. "But there's definitely a chance to be a serious musician."

Weinstein said Franklin and Bombicino have inspired her to lighten up the lyrics and tone of the songs that she writes for her band, The Butterbeer Experience.

"I have this reputation for writing really serious, depressing songs, and they [Bombicino and Franklin] can just take the most stupid pop songs ever and make them hysterical and worth listening to," she said.

Bombicino and Franklin said they plan to jam with other Ithaca ukulele players like Weinstein and to find more diverse instrumentalists, like mandolin players, to collaborate with. Both plan to begin writing their own ukulele music and eventually make a master mix of Rihanna's "Umbrella," Paramore's "Misery Business," Miley Cyrus' "See You Again" and "Dragostea Din Tea" — otherwise known as "The Numa Numa Song" — which could all be transposed to the same key for a seamless transition from one song to the next. Bombicino and Franklin hope the music will be as popular here as it is abroad.

"In England, there is a group of people who do this very seriously called the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, and it's very well-received over there," Bombicino said. "The question is, how would it translate in the U.S.?"

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**Cursive**  
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COMPILED BY HALEY DAVIS

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—HALEY DAVIS

## quickies



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**Various Artists**  
**4AD Records**  
This two-disc compilation features 31 songs by top indie artists. "Train Song," a collaborative effort by Feist and Ben Gibbard of Death Cab for Cutie is an especially worthwhile track.

COMPILED BY HALEY DAVIS

# Contrived performance taints emotional drama

BY MONICA WATSON  
STAFF WRITER

As a haggard man plods forward on a pier, he drops the bundle of clothes he is carrying, climbs the railing and plummets himself into the water below him in an attempt at suicide. This tragic yet overemotional scene sets the tone for the romantic drama "Two Lovers." Its melodramatic plot has become commonplace in the film industry, but director James Gray's understated and simple approach prevents it from seeming trite. Still, Gray's efforts are negated by one overshadowing fault — bad acting.

Bipolar Leonard Karditor (Joaquin Phoenix), who was recently released from a psychiatric institution, struggles after being rejected by his fiancée. After attempting suicide multiple times, he moves in with his overbearing yet loving parents in New York. In an attempt to help their son out of his slump, the two decide to play matchmaker, setting him up with Sandra Cohen (Vinessa Shaw), the daughter of a prospective buyer of their dry cleaning business.

Despite his parents' attempts, Leonard falls for his neighbor, Michelle Rausch (Gwyneth Paltrow), an emotional roller coaster with a mountain of baggage, including a drug addiction and a married lover who promises to leave his family for her someday. Leonard strings Sandra along while forcefully pursuing Michelle, sometimes with a stalker-like obsession.

With what could have been a fantastic ensemble, including a stunning performance from Shaw, the movie had the potential to be great. But

## FILM REVIEW

**"Two Lovers"**  
Magnolia Pictures  
Our rating:  
★½



From left, Ruth (Isabella Rossellini) and her son Leonard (Joaquin Phoenix) share a heartbreaking moment in one of the few believable scenes of the dark drama "Two Lovers." Phoenix's forced acting spoiled the film's potential.  
COURTESY OF MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Phoenix did not believably portray the tortured soul of Leonard. In his last movie before heading off to pursue a music career, Phoenix does not leave the audience wanting more. To put it bluntly, his horribly awkward and forced acting ruined the film. Many of the scenes that could have been endearing or heartbreaking were made laughable by his portrayal of Leonard. In one scene, Leonard tells Sandra why his fiancée left him. Phoenix's inability to get into character makes it impossible for the audience to connect with Leonard emotionally.

By placing Phoenix in every scene, Gray made it practically impossible for the film to create any sense of intimacy with audience

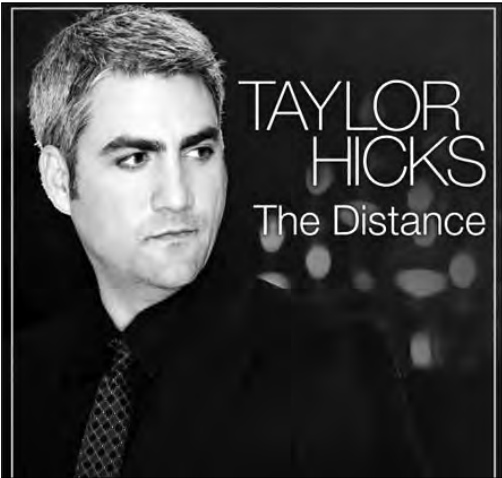
members because they are too busy focusing on Phoenix's subpar acting. Every scene seems to go on for an eternity, and the film as a whole moves at a slow and emotionless pace. Even the inherent drama of sexual encounters, medical emergencies and possible deaths are unable to revive any sort of excitement. The film is like a person who complains too much — interesting and possibly tragic at first, but annoying after a few minutes.

The film has its meaningful moments, though. In one of the final scenes between Leonard and his mother Ruth (Isabella Rossellini) the audience can feel the heartbreak felt by a mother having to let her son go.

The connection between the mother and son can be felt coming through the screen from the well-meaning Ruth. This is in spite of Phoenix, not because of him.

"Two Lovers" attempts to be endearing and thoughtful. It strives to create a message for the viewer, but isn't really able to construct one, and it fails to form a bond between audience and actors. In spite of its efforts, the film falters in its formulaic plot and less-than-stunning acting that makes even the twists of the film feel forced.

*"Two Lovers" was written by James Gray and Ric Menello, and directed by Gray.*



COURTESY OF MODERN WHOMP RECORDS

## Idol turns out idle CD

BY AARON EDWARDS  
STAFF WRITER

American Idol fifth season-winner Taylor Hicks' new album "The Distance" has a few tracks worth adding to a music library. His smooth vocals on tracks such as "A Woman's Got to Have It," a duet with Elliot Yamin, who placed third in the show's fifth season, is sure to please current fans.

But overall the album lacks substance, focus and originality. The rest of Hicks' songs are full of clichéd lyrics and strained singing, especially in the ballad "Nineteen" — "He's the boy next door / He might have carried your bags at the grocery store." These and other lyrics in Hicks' compilation resemble the usual found in typical Southern folk music.

The serious topics covered in Hicks' tracks — Sept. 11 and the war in Iraq — hit close to home, but Hicks' deadpan tone and lack of varied emotion throughout the album does not support his overall message. Listeners will finish listening to the album wondering what that message actually is.

## ALBUM REVIEW

**Taylor Hicks**  
**"The Distance"**  
Modern Whomp Records  
Our rating:  
★★½

# Irish rock vets return in full force

U2's latest album takes listeners on a rhythmic journey

BY ALEXANDRA PALOMBO  
STAFF WRITER

A rhythmically diverse album is almost as essential to a college student's road trip as a car. U2's "No Line on the Horizon" is no exception. Varying beats and a natural flow between fast-paced songs and ballads make the band's 12th studio album the quintessential road-trip soundtrack. U2 reminds audiences why the band remains relevant more than 30 years after its formation. It manages to retain elements of its signature sound in the process of reinventing itself.

The title track starts the album off with a bang, as bassist Adam Clayton fades a heavy low beat into the up-tempo song. Bono's voice is stronger than ever, sounding much as it did on the 1987 U2 staple "With Or Without You." The second track, "Magnificent," keeps the album's fast pace like a driver speeding down a freeway. It features synthesizers, a Middle Eastern-influenced guitar line and a surprisingly religious undertone — a reference to the early U2, which was founded as a Christian rock group in 1970s Dublin.

The CD slows down with its third track, "Moment of Surrender." With a backing of light organs and heavy piano, the song gives The Edge a chance to show off his smooth guitar skills to accompany the band's beautiful four-part harmony. The slow and relaxed vibe continues on "Unknown Caller," as Bono uses his falsetto to ease the listener into the song.

The song flows into the next track, "I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight," but the CD truly kicks into gear with "Get On Your

Boots." Previewed at the opening of this year's Grammy Awards, this is arguably the most catchy song of the CD.

Bono's cadence and The Edge's raw and buzzing guitar are similar to those of "Vertigo" from their last album, 2004's "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb." "Get On Your Boots" easily serves as the exciting final leg to the musical journey with its steady thump of drums.

Overall, "No Line on the Horizon" is strong in its mix of relaxed and thoughtful slow songs with upbeat and danceable ones, making it an album that will easily take the listener from one musical coast to the next. The music lets listeners picture themselves hitting the gas to the country-like twang of "Stand Up Comedy," taking in the view to the mellow rhythms of "White as Snow" and "Cedars of Lebanon" (the most melancholy track on the album, and perhaps a subtle dig at the wars in the Middle East); and looking out over a city skyline to "Breathe."



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

# Pages from comic book shine on big screen

## ‘Watchmen’ succeeds in remaking cartoon action scenes and wild drama

**BY JAMES HASSON**  
STAFF WRITER

Long before the first trailers of the live-action superhero drama “Watchmen” were released, people claimed the Alan Moore 1986 graphic novel series was nothing less than “unfilmable.” This may not be far from the truth, for anyone trying to film “Watchmen” and include every character, event, backstory and theme from the 12-part comic book series would be forced to market it as a trilogy as long as “The Lord of the Rings” series. Yet Zack Snyder’s adaptation of “Watchmen,” almost a three-hour film, works as a tribute to the original. Though it is not a carbon copy of the comics, the movie “Watchmen” pulls the basic story and many of the series’ iconic moments from the pages and onto the screen to delight fans of the novel and intrigue first-timers.

**FILM REVIEW**  
“Watchmen”  
Paramount Pictures  
Our rating: ★★½



From left, Nite Owl II (Patrick Wilson) and Silk Spectra II (Malin Akerman) storm through a jail, fighting anyone who steps in their way. The mystery-adventure story line from a legendary comic book series comes to life in “Watchmen.” COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Dr. Manhattan’s absence triggers a Cold War showdown between the U.S. superheroes and Russia similar to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Snyder once again displays his knack and passion for translating the fascinating vision of graphic novels onto the screen, also seen in his blockbuster adaptation of “300.” The sets and most costumes are remarkably accurate to Dave Gibbon’s illustrations, filling the real-life scenes with the bright, lush shades of color from the comic book series. Snyder pays attention to even the smallest details, such as a copy of Hollis Mason’s book “Under the Hood” and the ancient Egyptian artifacts decorating Adrian Veidt’s office. Though “Watchmen” remains visually faithful to the comic book series, the plotline departs from it at times. Hard-core fans of the series should not raise their expectations so as to expect a perfect frame-by-frame replication of the series. What

they get instead is a condensed, streamlined version of the story. Snyder makes most of the alterations as to not overwhelm first-time viewers with excessive backstory. Characters’ quotes from two different instances in the comic book are often combined into one scene to save time. In addition, references to “The Black Freighter” comic book are left out, along with many of the minor characters’ stories. These editions force some of the comic book’s depth and symbolism to be lost in the translation. The actors succeed overall in carrying the strong personas of their diverse and fascinating characters. They use the source material as a strong foundation for their characters emotions (or lack thereof), motivations and personalities. Even Goode, whose appearance bears the least resemblance to his original character, manages to capture Ozymandias’ keen intellect and ruthless-

ness through his terse delivery of dialogue. Haley also delivers a star performance as the eerie, hollow Rorschach. Rorschach is intimidating with his mask on and haunting without it. His bone-chilling facade is amplified by the ugly scars and bruises created from layers of make-up, and when he unmask himself, the theater gets slightly darker and a few degrees colder. Many fans of the “Watchmen” novel will get their money’s worth seeing their favorite superheroes come to life on the big screen. Those who haven’t read it yet are equally likely to enjoy “Watchmen” as a movie standing on its own. Either way, people will easily recognize a terrific and passionate comic book adaptation born from the dedication and zeal of the entire “Watchmen” team. “Watchmen” was written by David Hayter and Alex Tse, and directed by Zack Snyder.

# Downplayed drama chases love

**BY MATT BIDDLE**  
STAFF WRITER

Head to the megaplex, and the marquee will be full of big-budget flicks like “The International” or “Taken.” Meanwhile, director Kelly Reichardt presents an understated tale of a woman traveling across the country with her closest friend — her dog, Lucy. “Wendy and Lucy” is wonderful for its subtle, slow pacing and the breadth of emotion displayed by the film’s heroine. Michelle Williams stars as Wendy Carroll, a woman down on luck traveling from Indiana to Alaska to find a job. With just a pillowcase of meager possessions, Wendy’s only companion is her dog, Lucy, a yellowish-brown mutt. The audience never fully learns the circumstances that brought this woman to her journey, though one strained phone conversation with Wendy’s sister alerts viewers that Lucy is probably the closest thing to family Wendy has. After Wendy’s car breaks down, a grocery store employee reports Wendy for shoplifting a couple cans of dog food. She’s taken to the police station and slapped with a \$50 fine, a large sum for the cash-strapped traveler. To make matters worse, when Wendy returns to the grocery store to retrieve her dog, which she had chained outside at the time of the arrest, Lucy is missing. Thus, Wendy searches for her lovable pooch on foot. Williams is fantastic in the lead role, especially considering she appears on screen for nearly all of

**FILM REVIEW**  
“Wendy and Lucy”  
Oscilloscope Pictures  
Our rating: ★★½

the movie’s 80-minute run time. She appears stoic and reserved for most of the film, making precise acting choices, except for a few memorable moments of emotional release. For instance, she shows subtle indignation at her arrest, thereby making her tearful breakdown in a gas station bathroom later in the film much more moving for the viewer. Her enthusiastic smile over a small tidbit of good news is also more satisfying when compared to her usual look of anguish. As a character, Wendy simultaneously possesses a determination to pull herself out of her desperate situation and a hopelessness that manifests itself in her sloppy haircut, timid presence and unkempt appearance. She seems at once independent in her decision to venture across the country with only her dog by her side and weak in her reliance on strangers she encounters along the way. Throughout the film, Wendy gets by with the help of these few caring strangers she meets in the Oregon town. A security guard (Wally Dalton) becomes the closest thing Wendy has to a friend. A mechanic, played by Will Patton, gives Wendy a discount on car repairs. Watching Wendy relate to these people is interesting because each character is necessary to push Wendy through her troubles. The movie is a realistic portrait of a woman struggling economically, made more poignant by the nation’s current crisis. Reichardt is an excellent storyteller who knows when to use moments of silence to move a scene, instead of obtrusive dialogue. The movie’s other great strength is its pacing. While other movies drag on, this film moves slowly — deliberately. This may put off some view-



Wendy (Michelle Williams), with her dog Lucy, travels across the country in search of a new job. COURTESY OF OSCILLOSCOPE PICTURES

ers hoping for a more frantic, exciting speed. In telling Wendy’s story, however, it is necessary to trot along carefully and thoughtfully, almost at the rate of real life. “Wendy and Lucy” is not for those seeking a high-profile Hollywood production. Those who are looking for a realistic, moving take on life, however, will find the film’s story line and acting refreshing and worth every penny. “Wendy and Lucy” was written by Jonathan Raymond and Kelly Reichardt, and directed by Reichardt.

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9 p.m. and  
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**THE CLASS**  
7:15 and 9:35 p.m. and  
Weekends 2:15 and 4:35 p.m.

**WENDY AND LUCY** ★★★★★½  
7:15 p.m. and  
Weekends 2:15 p.m.

**THE READER** ★★★  
7:15 and 9:35 p.m. and  
Weekends 2:15 and 4:35 p.m.

### REGAL STADIUM 14

Pyramid Mall 266-7960

**CORALINE** ★★★★★½  
11:50 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:10 p.m.,  
7:40 p.m., 10:15 p.m.

**DUPLICITY**  
12:50 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 7:10 p.m.,  
10:10 p.m.

**HE’S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU** ★★★★★  
12:10 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m.,  
11 p.m.

**I LOVE YOU, MAN**  
11:40 a.m., 1:20 p.m., 2:20 p.m.,  
4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:50 p.m., 7:50 p.m.,  
9:40 p.m., 10:40 p.m.

**KNOWING**  
1:10 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:30 p.m.,  
10:20 p.m.

**MISS MARCH**  
4:10 p.m., 9:30 p.m.

**RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN**  
11:30 a.m., 12:20 p.m., 2:10 p.m.,  
3:40 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m.,  
7:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m., 9:50 p.m.

**TAKEN** ★★½  
12:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m.,  
8:10 p.m., 10:50 p.m.

**THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT**  
2:40 p.m., 5:20 p.m., 8:20 p.m.,  
11:10 p.m.

**WATCHMEN** ★★★  
12 p.m., 2:50 p.m., 3:30 p.m.,  
6:20 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 p.m.,  
10:30 p.m.

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Fair ★★  
Poor ★



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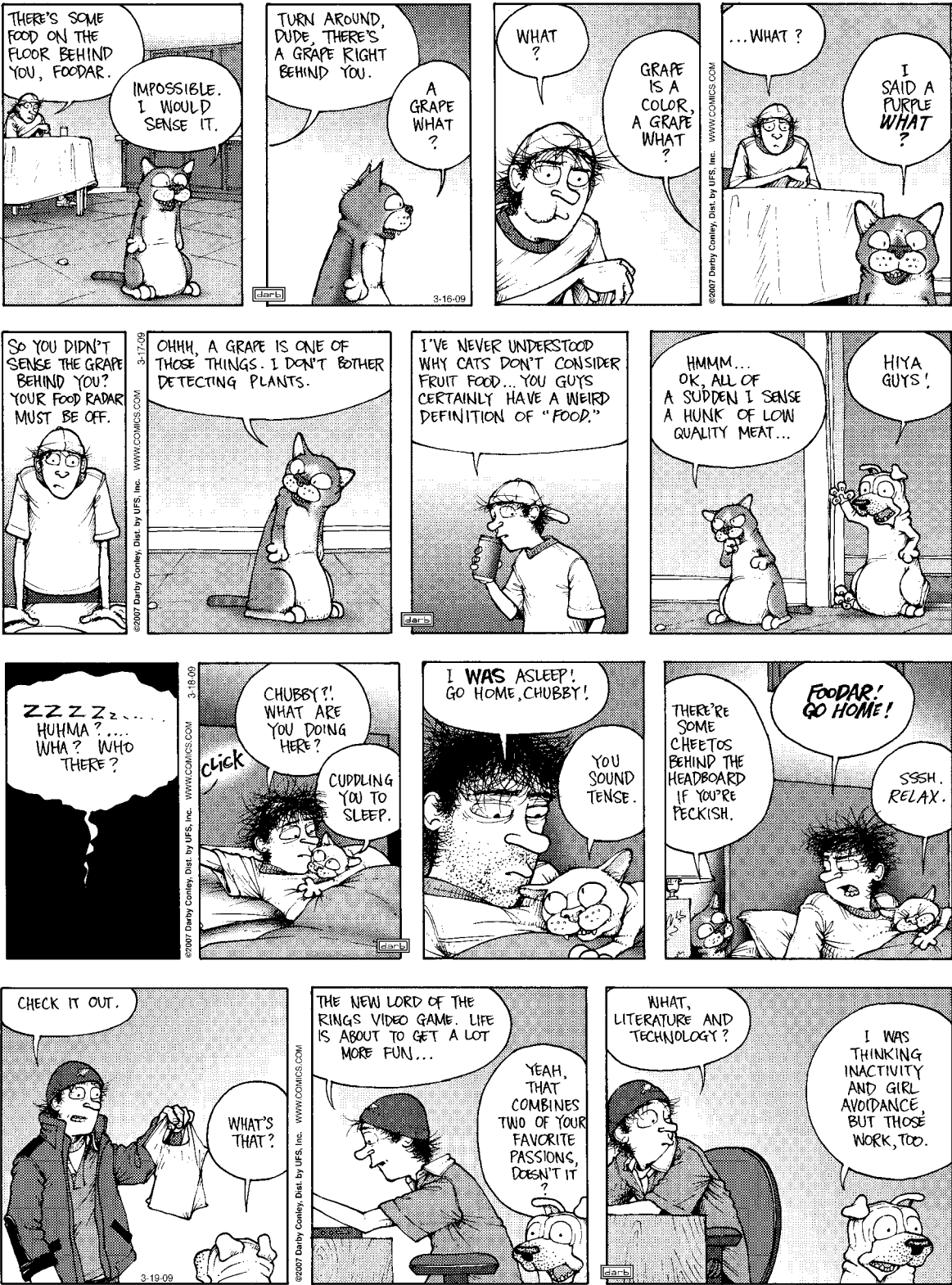
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sudoku

Medium

2			4	1		5	7	
		4						
	5					9		
6				5				
			1		2			5
	1	5	8	6		3		4
5		8	9	7	1	2		
			8					9
9					5		1	

Very Hard

2	5							
			7					
				6	1	3		8
		2		9		6	8	
9					3			
	6		8	7			4	
			1		6	8		7
7	8			2	9	1		6

answers to last issue's sudoku

Easy	Medium
8 6 9 4 7 3 5 1 2	4 7 3 1 8 2 6 9 5
1 4 3 6 2 5 9 7 8	2 8 1 6 5 9 3 7 4
5 2 7 8 9 1 3 4 6	9 6 5 7 3 4 8 1 2
4 8 2 5 3 6 7 9 1	7 9 2 8 6 1 5 4 3
9 7 6 1 4 2 8 5 3	3 5 4 9 2 7 1 6 8
3 1 5 9 8 7 6 2 4	8 1 6 5 4 3 7 2 9
7 5 1 3 6 4 2 8 9	1 3 9 4 7 8 2 5 6
2 3 8 7 1 9 4 6 5	5 4 8 2 1 6 9 3 7
6 9 4 2 5 8 1 3 7	6 2 7 3 9 5 4 8 1

crossword By United Media

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13					14			
15					16					17			
				18	19			20	21				
22	23	24				25	26						
27					28				29	30	31	32	
33					34					35			
36				37		38				39			
				40	41				42				
43	44	45						46					
47					48	49	50			51	52	53	54
55					56					57			
58					59					60			

- ACROSS

  - 1 Delivery trucks
  - 5 Monsieur's pate
  - 9 TV band
  - 12 Qom's country
  - 13 Translucent gem
  - 14 Grass-skirt accessory
  - 15 Conduit
  - 16 "Minimum" amount
  - 17 Pen point
  - 18 Mag execs
  - 20 Sears a steak
  - 22 Humming
  - 25 Tiny speck
  - 27 Winged Victory
  - 28 Tijuana "Mrs."
  - 29 Impudence
  - 33 Road sign symbol
  - 34 Parcel of land
- DOWN

  - 35 Shakespearean oath
  - 36 Part of MIT
  - 38 Switch positions
  - 39 Fasten a shoe
  - 40 Subsidies
  - 42 Listens closely
  - 43 Silly
  - 46 Baby fox
  - 47 Fruit-bearing tree
  - 48 In stitches
  - 51 Light tan
  - 55 Cold-weather malady
  - 56 Radar blip
  - 57 Fraud
  - 58 Stadium cry
  - 59 Whistle sound
  - 60 Ike Turner's ex
- 28 Unkempt one
  - 30 Off in the distance
  - 31 Dampen a stamp
  - 32 Wine sediments
  - 37 First-down yardage
  - 39 Breaking news
  - 41 Attacked from all sides
  - 42 Casual hello
  - 43 Uncertain
  - 44 Longest river
  - 45 Water, to Pedro
  - 46 Muscle cramp
  - 49 Kind of system
  - 50 Reporter's question
  - 52 T'ai — ch'uan
  - 53 Jogged
  - 54 Ms. Thurman

answers to last issue's crossword

CAT	CAV	PEER
COKE	EVA	ARLO
OARS	EEL	CAFE
GLOSS	ROLES	
SSN	ASTRO	UMA
	ILKS	CRAB
SHIFTY	LONERS	
AILS	PEON	
GEL	KLUTZ	FIB
	EIDER	ELUDE
PIGS	VPS	ARIA
EDAM	ELI	MOOD
PALS	LEX	ARM

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# Taking new strides

ITHACA COLLEGE

Emma Dewart takes to both track and field for the first time as a Bomber pentathlete

**BY CASEY MUSARRA**  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Rising to the challenge is freshman Emma Dewart's forte. She had never competed in the pentathlon before joining the women's indoor track team this year, and now she is a state champion, an Eastern College Athletic Conference champion and an All-American in the event.

"I came here as a sprinter and a jumper and [Head Coach Jennifer] Potter a couple of practices into the start of the season was like, 'I think you're going to be a multi,'" Dewart said.

Dewart said because she had little experience in some of the pentathlon events, she never expected to place first at the ECAC Championships and said the NCAA Championships were even more intimidating, as she faced off against mostly juniors and seniors.

"I knew I wanted to do well and that I needed to, but going to nationals has been a whole new experience," she said. "I was walking in as a freshman, not knowing what to expect. I found that the girls were really welcoming, and my nerves kind of disappeared when I got here."

Of the five events in the pentathlon — high jump, shot put, long jump, 55-meter hurdles and the 800-meter run — Dewart had only competed in the high jump and long jump regularly and the shot put occasionally at Barker High School in Barker, N.Y.

"We toyed around with putting her in the pentathlon in high school," Barker High School Head Track Coach Bill Wilson said. "But I couldn't risk having her fall over the hurdles and get hurt so we never did it."

Last year, Dewart's ability to rise to a challenge and try new things really shone through. Wilson said he was not sure if

she would be able to win a sprint event so he had her compete in the triple jump to pick up points in the field.

"We put her in, and she ended up breaking the school record," Wilson said. "That's how we discovered she could triple jump — I didn't know she knew the steps."

Wilson said Dewart always put in extra effort by going into school early to work out, and she continues to do that now.

"She works a lot on her core," Wilson said. "When she came home on breaks, she'd be in the weight room."

Her father, Jonathan Dewart, was also a long and triple jumper in high school. Wilson said on Saturdays when the team was not practicing, Dewart would be out on the track practicing her jumps with her dad.

With five events to work on, Dewart said pentathletes are usually the last people to leave practice because they end up doing two or three workouts a day.

"She's an animal," sophomore teammate



From left, freshman Emma Dewart and senior Lizzie Bronson run Monday at Butterfield Stadium. Dewart earned All-American honors in the pentathlon during the indoor season.

ALLISON WASSINK/THE ITHACAN

Marcia McCord said. "I could never do what she does on a daily basis at a meet."

In high school, Dewart earned five varsity letters in track and field, as she moved up to varsity in eighth grade, and also lettered in soccer and basketball.

Despite a busy track schedule, De-

lated on the track because, as a physical education and health major, she studies sports as well.

While her first indoor season was a big change for Dewart, the change in surface has not affected her jumps.

"She's jumping more consistently this year than she was last year," Wilson said. "I'm curious to see how she can do on the

"She's an animal. I could never do what she does on a daily basis at a meet."

—SOPHOMORE MARCIA MCCORD



Freshman Emma Dewart competes in the long jump Jan. 24 at the Upstate Challenge in Barton Hall at Cornell University.

ALLISON WASSINK/THE ITHACAN

wart manages to play on the women's club basketball team at Ithaca as well.

Wilson said Dewart always had good speed, but her jumping ability has come a long way and playing multiple sports has probably contributed to her success.

"I don't know if she ever stood still," Wilson said. "Everything she does, she does at high speeds, she goes all out. If she's walking down the hall, she's walking fast. If she's talking, she's talking fast — that's the way she's wired."

While athletics seem to be her main focus, Dewart is also an excellent student.

After Wilson nominated her, Dewart was named to the 2007–08 All-Western New York Scholar-Athlete team.

Wilson said her studiousness has trans-

high jump outdoors."

Wilson said Dewart has always been able to pick up on things from older athletes as well as pass her knowledge down to younger athletes. Last season, Dewart worked with three freshmen to set her high school's record in the 4x100-meter relay.

"She worked with them on handoffs," Wilson said. "She was kind of like the mother hen last year with us."

Though she works hard to help her teammates improve, Wilson said Dewart is fueled by competition and hates losing.

"Next year will even be better for her because if there's a freshman girl that comes into Ithaca and looks like [she'll] push her, [Dewart's] going to work hard to beat that little girl," Wilson said. "She does not want to get beat, especially by someone younger."



# Baseball team has solid start to rebuilding year

**BY CASEY MUSARRA**  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After losing nine seniors last season, the Bombers should be entering a rocky rebuilding year. But after taking five out of eight games on their spring break trip to California, giving them their best start since 2006, it's a rebuilding process that appears to be going smoothly.

"The last couple of years we've gone like 3-6, 4-5, so this was a pretty good trip," senior second baseman Dylan Perez said. "We have a pretty young team, but a lot of guys stepped up and came through for us."

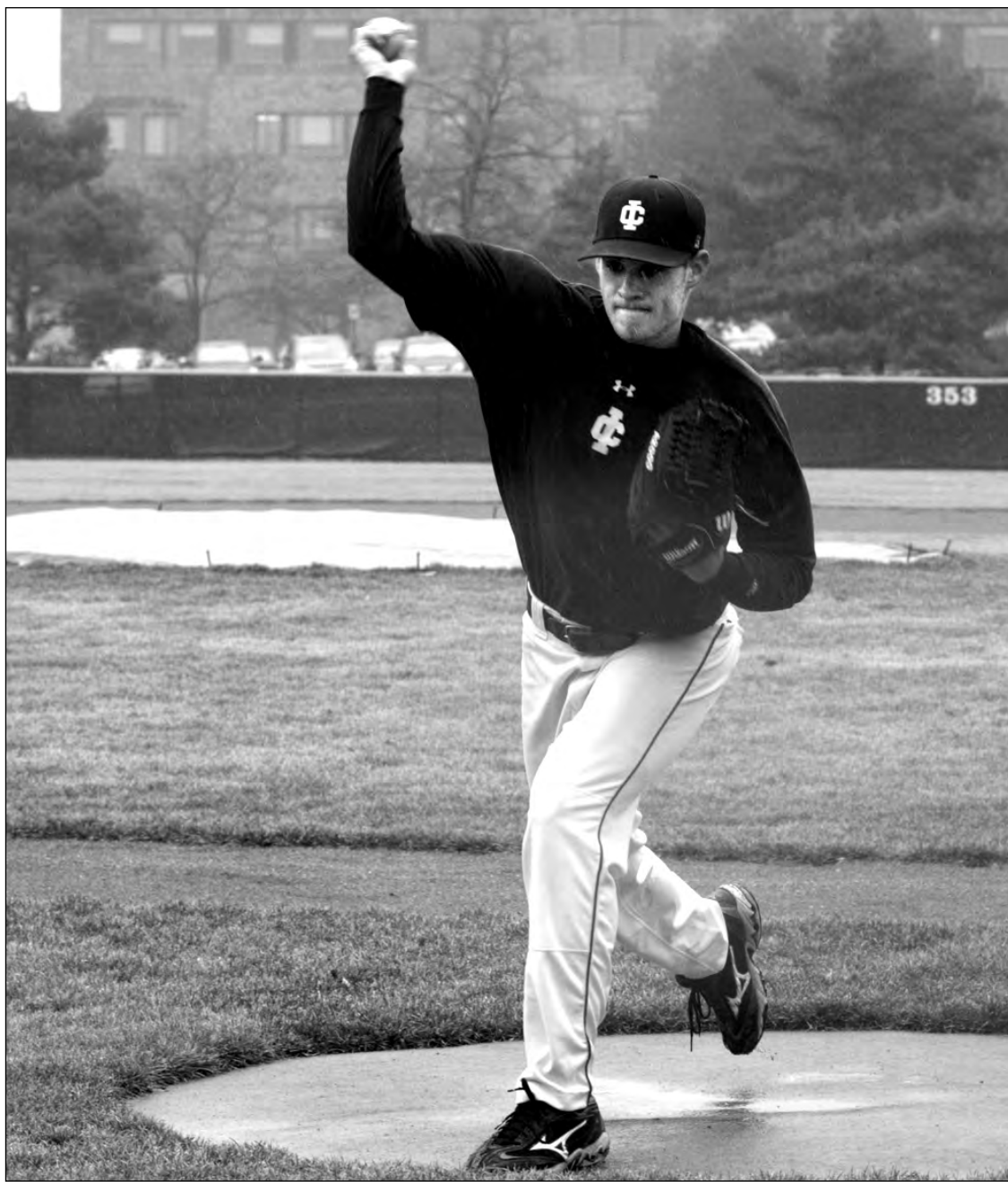
Playing outdoors for the first time after weeks of indoor practices can often be a tough transition, but the Blue and Gold seemed to do it with ease — even with some inexperienced players. Perez said based on the way they played, the younger players looked like they had played under pressure before.

Sophomore pitcher Aaron Sapp, who only made five appearances last season, earned a complete game shutout victory over Occidental College in his first career start March 10, letting up only four hits over nine innings. Sophomore Matt Streich, a transfer from St. Mary's College of Maryland, led the Bombers in RBIs with 12 and averaged .310 during the eight-game stretch in California. Sophomore Rob Zappia, who played for the junior varsity team last season, contributed a career-high five RBIs Sunday in the Bombers' 5-3 win over Menlo College.

"Coming out here you really don't know what we've got be-

## STAT CHECK

The **Bombers'** 5-3 record is their **best start** to a season since **2006**. Ithaca opened its season in **California**.



Sophomore pitcher Aaron Sapp throws warm-up pitches at baseball practice yesterday at Bucky Freeman Field. The Blue and Gold went 5-3 in their eight opening games in California. Sapp posted a 2-0 record in his two appearances. LAUREN DECICCA/THE ITHACAN

cause we've been in the gym for five weeks," Perez said. "You come out here, and you give everybody

a shot, and everybody did their part. There was never a point where we felt like we were ill-pre-

pared no matter who was in the game, whether it be a freshman or a four-year senior."

While Streich said he knew the team was going to be good, he said he did not think everything would come together so quickly.

"It's really exciting to see the talent level," Streich said. "I could see it inside and in the fall, but now I can tell we're really going to be a good team."

Perez said the team developed great chemistry early into the season, which has really helped the team on the field.

Head Coach George Valesente said the coaches were pleased with how the young players made the transition from the gym to the field.

"The young men progressed and got better as we went through the games and started to understand the things we'd like them to do and how we'd like them to respond," he said.

Valesente said the team landed Friday night in California, so the players were able to get two practices in Saturday before their first game against No. 18 California Lutheran University, which they won 8-3.

"We come back with an understanding of the skill levels of the players and what situations they can play in to help the team be successful," he said.

Valesente said he realizes there are areas of the game the team needs to improve upon, such as holding runners and baserunning, but playing games is the only way to get better at those things.

"These things are very difficult to teach in practice, so the only time you really get any kind of experience at it is during a game, so that's what the game's importance is," Valesente said. "We'll work on it in practice, but you need to take what you work on in practice and apply it to the game. ... So that's the key thing for us."

## Bombers start season in south

**BY THOMAS ESCHEN**  
STAFF WRITER

As soon as the softball team took its first steps off the plane for a 10-game stretch in Clermont, Fla., last week, it was clear the Bombers were not in central New York anymore. After gritting through weeks of avoiding freezing outdoor temperatures in the stuffy Ben Light Gymnasium, the team got a breath of fresh air. Fitted in a better climate for softball, sophomore third baseman Allison Greaney said she had no problem getting back into the game.

"Everything comes back so quickly," she said. "Fielding the ball off the grass and seeing the ball in the sky instead of the gym rafters is a lot nicer."

One of the most important parts of the spring break trip is the adjustment period. Often, the way the team comes together after those first few games outside is more important than the win-loss record.

"In those first couple games we are really feeling each other out," junior tri-captain outfielder Katherine Wilson said. "We were finally able to actually play and see what everyone could do."

It did not take long for the athletes to adjust to both the game and each other. The team went 7-3 during the trip, finishing with two wins in a doubleheader over Northwestern College and Bates College. That will serve as a big psychological boost going into the regional part of the schedule.

## NEXT UP

Ithaca travels south again to compete in the **Salisbury, Md., Invitational** this weekend. The Bombers will play **four games**.

"We are really excited about what we saw," Greaney said. "The three losses we had were all only by one run, and we ended on a positive note."

Two out of those three losses were even closer than the scoreboard showed, having gone into extra innings.

"We know we can play with anyone," Wilson said. "We just hope to win those extra-inning games in the future."

In those games, Ithaca scored many of its runs with two outs, which kept the score close. The players proved to each other they can produce in clutch situations, an experience that will be vital when the postseason rolls around.

"We work well together," junior Caitlin Ryan said. "We don't let things get to us and are very even keeled."

In the games where the Bombers fell short, fielding mistakes led to the opposition capitalizing and taking the lead.

"Errors are what caused a couple of the losses," Greaney said. "It is kind of a positive in a negative way though, knowing we just have to fix that to win those games."

After playing 10 games in six days, Ithaca will have a full week of practice to mend its mistakes. Coming back to South Hill, the team is hoping to be able to practice on Kostrinsky Field for the first time all season. While the Ben Light Gymnasium does provide a serviceable venue, the Bombers noticed that most of their rust came because of being cooped up inside.

"Most of the things we struggled at were things we couldn't necessarily work on in the gym," Ryan said.



Sophomore third baseman Allison Greaney prepares to throw during an infield drill Monday at Kostrinsky Field. The Bombers went 7-3 in their spring trip last week to Clermont, Fla. TJ GUNTHER/THE ITHACAN

If they get ideal weather, it will be much easier to prepare for their next onslaught of games — a four-game stretch this weekend in Salisbury, Md. As a part of the Salisbury Invitational, they will once again be put to the test, with two doubleheaders in two days.

When the Bombers return, they will have their first home game Wednesday against No. 6 SUNY-Cortland. Though it won't be the southern atmosphere the team has gotten used to, a green Kostrinsky Field will be a welcome sight for the Blue and Gold.

# Disappointing conclusion

## Men's track and field does not meet expectations in ECAC Championships

BY KEVIN MCCALL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After the men's track team finished first in the Empire 8 and fourth in the state, the Bombers were primed for a top performance March 6 and 7 at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships in Medford, Mass. But the Blue and Gold fell short of their expectations, finishing 38th out of 50 teams.

The sprinters, junior Jon Lin and sophomores Max Orenstein and Jeff Wetmore, started off slow in the two-day meet at Tufts University running in the 55-meter preliminary and finishing 24th, 16th and 23rd respectively. Though all three sprinters suffered career-worst outings and would have liked to go to the finals, Wetmore said none of them were concerned that their performance in the preliminary would carry over into the later relays.

"We treated each event individually and didn't let it get to us too much," he said.

The relays gave the South Hill squad an opportunity to show its depth, a factor that set it apart from its opposition. The Bombers' 800-meter relay team showed their mix of young talent and veteran experience. Lin, Orenstein, Wetmore and freshman Doug Koury ran the race, earning all-ECAC honors.

Senior captain Chris Covino said the camaraderie between Orenstein and Wetmore was essential to the success of the relay.

"The two of them work great together on [the] team, and that propelled us to our sixth-place finish," he said.

Orenstein, on the other hand, was not satisfied with the team's performance.

"We probably could have finished second or third, but we had a few messed-up

handoffs," he said.

Another valuable asset to the South Hill squad was senior captain Tim Shea and sophomore Anthony Veroline competing as part of the distance medley relay team that finished 13th.

Orenstein said Shea and Veroline accomplished their feat through hard work. Shea came back from training in Los Angeles in order to compete, while Veroline had gone to Alaska and hiked a mountain with rocks in his backpack during the offseason as a training exercise.

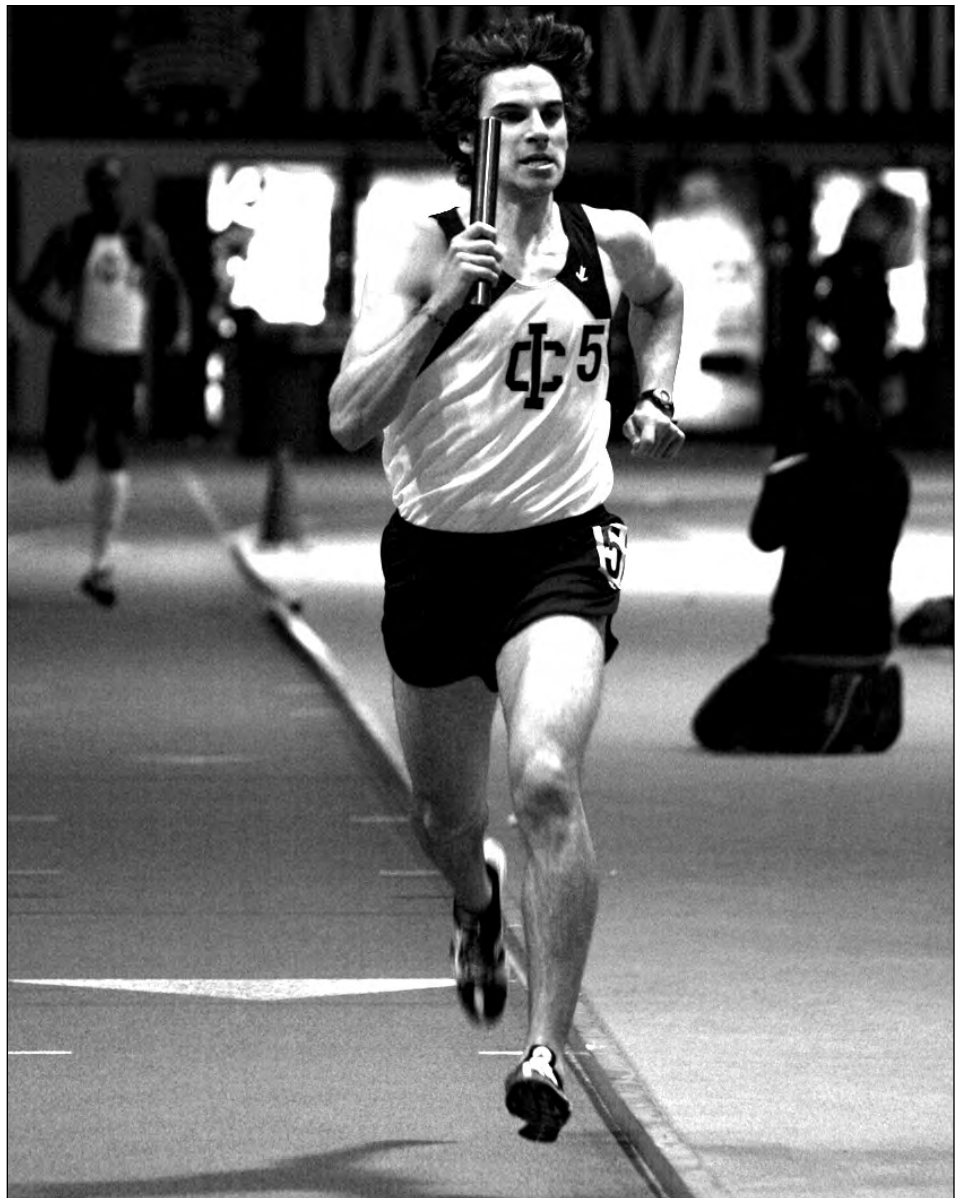
Injuries suffered in the New York State Collegiate Track Conference Championships on Feb. 27 and 28 took their toll on the Bombers on the second day of the ECAC Championships, as they fell 11 spots from 27th place at the end of Friday to an overall finish of 38th. Wetmore and Lin were battling hamstring injuries while Orenstein was suffering from a bad back.

"A lot of us had to go to many physical therapy sessions throughout the week just to be able to compete," Orenstein said. "We couldn't train all week."

Junior sprinter Joel Trager, who earned all-ECAC honors in the 500-meter run, said the team peaked at the state championships the previous weekend and some fatigue may have set in.

"Even though some teams hit their stride around that time in the indoor season, we did really well the week before at states," he said. "Since a lot of us were running a lot more than we were used to, the magnitude of all the races pushed some of us over the edge, and we started to have hamstring problems."

Trager said the injuries were not a psychological factor in the meet because the other



Sophomore Anthony Veroline carries the baton Jan. 24 at the Upstate Challenge at Cornell University. The Bombers will begin their outdoor season March 28 at the Ithaca Invitational.

ALLISON WASSINK/THE ITHACAN

teams were also feeling fatigued toward the end of a long indoor season. The Bombers just had to come together as a team and support each other in order to succeed.

Covino said though the athletes did not meet

some expectations in their final meet of the indoor season, they will use it as motivation.

"We underperformed a little, and we'll prepare even harder for the outdoor season," he said.

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# Home away from home

## Reis Tennis Center houses men’s squad during inclement weather conditions

BY ANDREW WEISER  
STAFF WRITER

When it’s freezing outside and wind is whipping around campus, the sharp sound of the men’s tennis team perfecting its volleys is missing, and the ball darting back and forth across the net is absent from Ithaca College’s outdoor tennis courts. But that doesn’t mean the weather stops the team from practicing.

The Reis Tennis Center at Cornell University houses the only indoor courts in Ithaca, so when the conditions outside don’t allow for the team to properly prepare, the athletes move indoors.

“It’s our only option if we are going to hit and prepare for the season,” Head Coach Bill Austin said.

The team primarily uses this time indoors to work on its hitting, while acclimating itself to compete in similar environments.

“We’ve definitely been on the Cornell courts a lot more than previous years,” senior co-captain Andrew Dunnick said. “That is going to help us down the line.”

But for this team, it’s more than just using time away from campus to practice and prepare — it’s what ultimately carries over to the competition.

During the last four seasons, the men’s tennis team has played a total of 84 matches, 64 of which have been played away from campus, in both indoor and outdoor settings.

“Other schools have indoor facilities, so it definitely gives us a leg up,” junior Taylor Borda said. “Once we transition to the outside courts, we’re ready because of that indoor time.”

When the weather starts to warm up, the

players return to South Hill to practice on the outdoor courts, easily adapting their play to yet another location.

“The court time [at Cornell] is so valuable that you have to use it all for hitting and drills,” Dunnick said. “In the spring once we’re outside it’s completely different, there’s time for more conditioning.”

Before the spring season, the team also travels south down to Hilton Head, S.C., during spring break to compete with several other teams in a neutral setting. With the many court transitions and notable number of away matches, the players are still able to perform at a winning level, even when they spend most of the season on the road.

“The guys all do pretty well transitioning,” Borda said. “But that’s because we’ve had to deal with that personally growing up and playing high school tennis.”

When it comes down to home matches in the midst of all the team’s traveling, there are still parameters that surround outdoor play, mainly involving the weather.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association has weather requirements that state for a match to occur, the temperature must be above 50 degrees and the wind less than 20 mph.

Because the weather in Ithaca doesn’t always accommodate outdoor play in early spring, several home matches can be relocated to Cornell. However, the players have learned to anticipate these circumstances.

“It doesn’t really affect me as a player knowing where I am going to play,” sophomore Josh Rifkin said. “I’m expecting the first few matches to be at Cornell and the later few to be at our courts.”

The team — having already posted



Junior Andrew Kalicki works on his backhand during the Bombers’ practice Tuesday at the Ithaca College Tennis Courts. The South Hill squad’s home opener is at 5 p.m. today.  
ALLISON WASSINK/THE ITHACAN

an undefeated record on neutral courts this season — is sure to continue to build on its success while adapting to any environment.

“The bottom line is that you go in with the ‘Hoosiers’ mentality,” Austin said. “A court’s a court. The parameters are such that you play with the conditions you got.”



THE ITHACAN online | [theithacan.org/sports](http://theithacan.org/sports)

### Look online for game stories from these sports:

- TODAY**  
Men’s and women’s swimming and diving @ NCAA Championships  
Women’s lacrosse vs. Buffalo State College  
Men’s tennis vs. RIT

- TOMORROW**  
Gymnastics @ National Collegiate Gymnastics Association Championships @ Hamline University  
Men’s and women’s swimming and diving @ NCAA Championships  
Softball @ Salisbury Tournament  
Baseball @ Gettysburg College

- SATURDAY**  
Gymnastics @ NCGA Championships @ Hamline University  
Softball @ Salisbury Tournament  
Men’s and women’s swimming and diving @ NCAA Championships  
Baseball @ Washington College  
Men’s lacrosse @ SUNY-Cortland

- SUNDAY**  
Men’s and women’s swimming and diving @ NCAA Championships  
Baseball @ DeSales University

- MONDAY**  
Women’s swimming and diving @ NCAA Championships

- WEDNESDAY**  
Baseball vs. SUNY-New Paltz  
Softball vs. SUNY-Cortland  
Men’s lacrosse vs. Alfred University

MORE SPORTS UPDATES  
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## bombers to watch



**SOPHOMORE  
KATIE HURLEY**  
WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Hurley picked up nine goals and two assists in the Bombers' two-game trip to West Palm Beach, Fla., including a career-high five goals in the Bombers' 19-7 win Friday over Vassar College.



**SOPHOMORE  
DAVID GAL**  
MEN'S LACROSSE

Gal made 15 saves in the Bombers' 7-6 win over Drew University in San Diego to help the No. 5 Blue and Gold improve to 5-0 overall on the season.



**SOPHOMORE  
DAVID AHONEN**  
BASEBALL

Ahonen leads the team in home runs with four in his last five games and is second on the team in batting average, hitting .469, and RBIs, with 11, through the Bombers' first eight games.



## Breaking out

From left, juniors Krissy Roth and Ian Turner practice break dancing with IC Breakers on Tuesday in the Aerobics Room of the Fitness Center. IC Breakers is a break dancing club that started in 2006 as an officially recognized club sport.

LAUREN DECICCA/THE ITHACAN

## the foul line

Weird news from the wide world of sports

This weekend chaos ensued on Division I basketball courts across the country (thus the term March Madness). But before No. 1 University of North Carolina fell to No. 22 Florida State University there was another battle Friday between Utah State University and New Mexico State University. While the game itself ended in a 71-70 victory for the Utah State Big Blue, the Big Blue bull mascot took a pounding from New Mexico State's Pistol Pete. During a time-out with seven seconds remaining on the clock, Big Blue ripped off Pistol Pete's fake mustache. In retaliation, Pistol Pete chased the bull to half-court, jumped on his back and tried to take him down to the floor. After that failed, he tried to choke the bull before returning to his end line.

— Casey Musarra



## they said it

**I didn't know it was that big of a deal. I thought all golfers do this.**

Unni Haskell, a 62-year-old native of Norway residing in St. Petersburg, Fla., after she scored a hole-in-one on a 100-yard hole Feb. 25 at Cypress Links in St. Petersburg on her first hole ever. Haskell had been taking golf lessons for two months but had never played on an actual course and did not even warm up.



## by the numbers

64

The number of away or neutral matches the men's tennis team has played during the last four seasons. See story on page 26.

10

The number of games the softball team played in a six-day span during spring break in Clermont, Fla. See story on page 24.

## play of the week



**Chris Carman**  
Senior attackman  
Men's Lacrosse

Carman scored the game-winning goal in the Bombers' 7-6 win over Drew University on Thursday to give the Blue and Gold a 5-0 overall record.

## GAME-WINNING GOAL

With four seconds remaining in the fourth quarter of the Bombers' game against Drew University, Carman scored off of an assist from freshman attackman Tom Mongelli to end their spring break trip to California with a perfect record. With a 5-0 overall record, the South Hill squad moved up one spot to fifth in the nation in Monday's United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Division III Poll.





Above: The people that live around and support the resorts in Punta Cana, located on the east coast of the Dominican Republic, are dependent on tourists for work. One small neighborhood produces picture frames that are sold at the resorts in the area.

Real Life  
in paradise



Above: A man removes fishing line from his catch on a private beach on the east coast of the city.

Photo Editor Evan Falk explored the community outside of the resorts during spring break in Punta Cana, a region in the Dominican Republic

PHOTOS BY EVAN FALK  
PHOTO EDITOR



Above: A girl plays basketball before she goes to class. There is only one school to support a large section of Punta Cana. The school has two classrooms that teach first through sixth grade.

Left: Students wait in the school yard for class to start. Often foreign investors are necessary to build governmental institutions, such as schools, since most federal funding is focused on the resorts.